



Warren Knowles-Gaylord
Nelson Stewardship Program

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Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program

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Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program

Wisconsin's first stewardship program was created in 1989 Wisconsin Act 31 to acquire land to expand nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities and protect environmentally sensitive areas. Under the program, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquires land and provides grants to local units of government and nonprofit organizations for land acquisition and property development activities through the issuance of 20-year tax exempt bonds. These bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the state, and the government is required to use its taxing power if necessary to repay the debt. Annual debt service payments for principal and interest on stewardship bonds are primarily funded from general purpose revenues (GPR), with a portion paid from the segregated (SEG) conservation fund.

Since its creation in 1989, the program has been reauthorized twice—in 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 and in 2007 Wisconsin Act 20. The current authorization runs through 2019-2020. The statutory allocations under each reauthorization of the program are shown in Table 1.

The current program, as amended by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, has an annual bonding authority of \$33.25 million through 2019-20. Beginning in fiscal year 2011-12, any remaining unobligated bonding authority may not be used in future fiscal years, effectively reducing authorized program

bonding below the statutorily enumerated total.

Public Ownership of Land in Wisconsin

Public conservation land throughout the state of Wisconsin is estimated to include approximately 5.9 million acres, or approximately 17% of the state's land area. The federal government holds approximately 1.8 million (30.3%) of the publicly held acres, the majority of which consists of national forests. Lands in county ownership, primarily county parks and forests, are estimated at approximately 2.5 million acres (42%) of the total. Table 2 summarizes public land ownership by governmental source.

The Department utilizes both fee title and conservation easement purchases in its land acquisition activities. Fee title acquisition involves outright purchases of land by the state, allowing for complete DNR management of the parcel. The Department makes aids in lieu of property tax payments to local governments on the land it owns. These aids are discussed in a separate section.

As of June 30, 2018, DNR owned approximately 1.5 million acres of land, which represents approximately 4.3% of the state's land area. The

Table 1: Stewardship Allocations by Purpose

	Original	Stewardship 2000	Reauthorized Stewardship	Total	% of Total
DNR Land Acquisition	\$150,800,000	\$345,250,000	\$175,500,000	\$671,550,000	52.5%
State Property Development*	35,000,000	65,000,000	74,750,000	174,750,000	13.7
Local Assistance (Grants) **	45,200,000	155,250,000	199,000,000	399,450,000	31.3
Recreational Boating	0	6,500,000	25,000,000	31,500,000	2.5
Total Allocations	\$231,000,000	\$572,000,000	\$474,250,000	\$1,277,250,000	100.0%

*Including Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery renovations authorization of \$7 million in fiscal year 2014-15.

**Including grants to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) and grants for county forests from the land acquisition subprogram.

Table 2: Estimated Public Conservation Land Ownership in Wisconsin

Land Owner	Acres	% of State Land
County	2,503,600	7.20%
Federal	1,790,600	5.15
State of Wisconsin		
DNR	1,506,800	4.34
BCPL	75,800	0.22
KVR	7,400	0.02
School Forests (K-12/Higher Ed.)	<u>27,700</u>	<u>0.08</u>
Total	5,911,900	17.01%
State Land Area	34,758,500	

DNR ownership represents approximately 25.4% of the publicly owned conservation land in Wisconsin. Additional state-held acreage in Table 2 is shown for the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR), which includes 7,400 state-owned acres in Vernon County and is open to outdoor recreation.

As of December, 2018, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) owned approximately 75,800 acres of school trust lands, bringing total state-owned conservation land to approximately 1.59 million acres. BCPL’s lands are included in this total as they are open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other nature-based outdoor recreational activities. It should be noted that BCPL has a fiduciary duty to manage these lands in trust for the benefit of public education beneficiaries. Approximately 33,300 acres, or roughly 44% of BCPL lands, are managed as productive timberland. An additional 3,800 acres are non-productive timberland, which, while forested, cannot be harvested due to impediments to access. BCPL awards three-year timber contracts through a competitive bidding process. Proceeds from BCPL timber sales are deposited in the appropriate school trust funds in accordance with state constitutional direction.

2005 Wisconsin Act 352 allows BCPL to "bank" proceeds from land sales and use them for acquisitions that meet certain criteria including:

(a) improving land management, (b) decreasing forest fragmentation, or (c) increasing public access to the land. Further, the Act specified that the total acreage of public lands managed by the Board may not exceed the total acreage of public lands managed by the Board on May 3, 2006. As of that date, BCPL managed 77,845 acres. 2005 Act 352 also required DNR to set aside \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year from the stewardship program to acquire land for BCPL. The requirement has been eliminated, although DNR may use its general land acquisition authority for such purposes.

Federal ownership includes land owned in fee title and managed by the federal government, including lands of the four major federal land management agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The federal figures in the table exclude lands managed by the Department of Defense. It should also be noted that the acres listed as federal land exclude land used for such purposes as office buildings or prisons. In addition, approximately 645,000 acres of tribal lands in the state are not included in the table. Although these lands are held in trust, they are not "owned" by the federal government and public access may be restricted on these lands.

School and community forests, which are owned mostly by school districts, technical colleges and UW System institutions, also are open to several outdoor recreational activities. Allowed activities vary by managing entity. These properties currently cover about 27,700 acres.

Easements. An easement is a perpetual agreement entered into by the landowner and DNR in which the state purchases certain specifically identified rights from the landowner. A conservation easement may: (a) provide for public access and recreational use; (b) specify certain management criteria, such as maintaining streambank habitat or sustainable forestry practices; or (c) contain certain development restrictions. The uniform conservation easement act under s. 700.40 of the state

statutes governs these transactions. The seller of the easement retains ownership of the property, as well as the right to use the property subject to the restrictions set forth in the easement. In such instances, s. 70.32(1g) of the statutes directs assessors to consider the value of such easements in setting taxable values. The owner of the property would continue to pay taxes on the property, but the taxable value would reflect the diminished value to the owner due to the conservation easement. The land can be sold, or passed on to the owner's heirs, but the conditions of the easement are part of the deed and are binding on future owners. As of June 30, 2018, in addition to the 1.5 million acres owned by DNR, the Department held easements on an additional 330,452 acres.

DNR properties are located in 71 of the state's 72 counties and range in size from two-tenths of an acre (the Jaeger's Island Wildlife Area in Winnebago County) and various boat launches to approximately 234,200 acres (the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in Iron, Oneida, and Vilas Counties). The Department has established a total acquisition goal of approximately 2,221,500 acres throughout the state. However, DNR periodically reviews and revises acreage goals or adds new acquisition projects with the approval of the Natural Resources Board. Of the current goal, approximately 1.8 million acres have either been purchased or protected by easement, bringing the Department to within 83% of its current goal.

Program Funding and General Requirements

Bonding Authority. Under the original stewardship program, DNR allocated \$23.1 million of general obligation bonding authority and \$1.9 million of federal land acquisition funds to reach an annual expenditure authority of \$25 million, or \$250 million over 10 years, although this was later reduced to \$231 million overall.

Under 1999 Act 9 and 2001 Wisconsin Act 16, the program was authorized at \$572 million overall and \$60 million annually for most years through 2009-10.

2007 Act 20 extended the stewardship program for another 10 years through fiscal year 2019-20 and increased the annual bonding authority under the program from \$60 million to \$86 million. Subsequent budget acts have reduced annual program funding to \$33.25 million annually and \$474.25 million total through 2019-20. Total statutorily authorized bonding authority under the program is currently \$1,277.25 million as shown in Table 1.

Table 3 illustrates how the additional \$474.25 million in general obligation bonding authorized from 2010-11 through 2019-20 is currently allocated among the statutory subprograms. In addition to renewing the land acquisition and

Table 3: Reauthorized Stewardship Allocations by Subprogram (2010-11 through 2019-20)

Subprogram	Total Allotment (10 Years) (In Millions)
Land Acquisition*	\$305.00
Property Development**	74.75
Local Assistance	69.50
Recreational Boating Aids	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$474.25

*Including grants to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs), and one-time allocations of \$5.2 million to DATCP for grants under the Purchase of Agricultural Easements Program (PACE) and \$6 million for dam safety grants to counties under order by DNR.

**Including \$7 million in fiscal year 2014-15 for Kettle Moraine Springs fish hatchery renovations.

property development subprograms, 2007 Act 20 created a new subprogram, the recreational boating aids subprogram, and provided \$1.5 million in 2007-08 and \$2.5 million annually beginning in 2008-09 for this subprogram.

As of June 30, 2018, the stewardship program has allowed DNR to purchase land or acquire

easements on 826,231 acres. Unless otherwise noted, an annual funding level has been established for each subprogram within the stewardship program for fiscal years 2000-01 through 2019-20, although by statute, DNR may have some

Table 4: Cumulative DNR Purchases, January 1, 1990 through June 30, 2018

Program	Acres
Fisheries and Streambank Protection	49,858
Northern Forests	287,303
Southern Forests	7,443
Parks, Trails, and Recreation Areas	55,160
Wild Rivers and Resource Areas	105,246
Wildlife Management	203,066
Natural Areas	89,443
Other	<u>28,712</u>
Total	826,231

flexibility with respect to the annual bonding authority amounts for certain subprograms. Table 4 provides a summary of the acreage acquired by program area.

The primary funding source during the reporting period is the stewardship program. However, these acres include those acquired through all sources, including acres donated to DNR, or purchased or acquired using federal grant funding or other state funds since 1990. In addition to stewardship bonding authority, the Department utilizes several federal grant programs to fund land acquisition including: Federal Forest Legacy Program (FLP) Grants; Habitat Conservation Planning Grants (Endangered Species); Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) grants; National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grants; North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants (NAWCA); Sport Fish Restoration Grants (fishery projects, boating access); and Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Grants.

In addition to utilizing federal grants for land acquisition, DNR may also receive a gift or donation of land from a nonprofit organization or private landowner. DNR also may utilize certain

other non-stewardship state funds from programs such as the nonpoint source pollution abatement program and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program to purchase land. However, the amount of available federal funds, gifts, and other state funds has varied greatly from year to year. Therefore, the majority of land acquisition purchases are made using stewardship bonding authority.

Staffing and Expenditures. During fiscal year 2017-18, DNR had 26.14 FTE positions in the agency funded from general operations appropriations that are involved in various aspects of the stewardship program. This represents numerous staff from a variety of funding sources throughout the agency that devote a portion of their workload to stewardship program-related duties. These staff are assigned to the following Bureaus: (a) 19.52 positions in Facilities and Lands; (b) 4.85 positions in Community Financial Assistance; (c) 0.42 positions in Parks and Recreation; (d) 1.18 position in Legal Services; (e) 0.09 position in Natural Heritage Conservation (formerly known as Endangered Resources); and (f) 0.08 in Southern Forests.

The Department expended a total of \$671 million for land acquisition (fee title and easements) between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 2018, including approximately \$537 million in stewardship funds and \$134 million in federal grants, other non-stewardship state funds, and other funds and gifts. Acquisitions by component are summarized in Table 5. The table does not include land acquisition funds used for grants to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs).

Program Restrictions. The Department may not acquire land using funding from the stewardship program without the prior approval of a majority of the members-elect of the county board of supervisors of a county in which the land is located if at least 66% of the land in the county is owned or under the jurisdiction of the state, the federal government or a local governmental unit.

Table 5: DNR General Land Acquisition Expenditures July 1, 1990 through June 30, 2018

Category	Acres Purchased	Stewardship Cost	Federal Cost*	Total Cost
Fisheries Management	44,870	\$55,130,000	\$19,032,500	\$74,162,500
Parks & Southern Forests	50,450	98,919,400	19,192,100	118,111,500
Northern Forests	276,965	133,459,200	26,511,300	159,970,500
Wild Rivers & Resources	103,724	94,013,100	6,057,000	100,070,100
Wildlife Management	114,939	98,667,100	40,068,300	138,735,400
Natural Areas	72,685	47,161,500	21,352,400	68,513,900
Other	<u>6,173</u>	<u>9,300,100</u>	<u>1,745,200</u>	<u>11,045,300</u>
Total	669,806	\$536,650,400	\$133,958,800	\$670,609,200

*Primarily federal, but including a small amount of gifts and land donations from private individuals and non-profit conservation organizations and certain other non-stewardship state funds from programs such as the nonpoint source water pollution abatement program and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program.

Before determining whether to approve the acquisition, the county in which the land is located must post notices that inform the residents of the community surrounding the land of the possible acquisition. No county is currently subject to this provision.

Also, DNR may not obligate funding from the stewardship program for: (a) the acquisition of land for golf courses or for the development of golf courses; (b) the acquisition by a municipality of land that is outside the boundaries of the municipality unless the municipality acquiring the land and the municipality in which the land is located approve the acquisition; or (c) for the acquisition or development of land by a county or other local unit of government if the land involved would be acquired by condemnation.

2007 Act 20 specifies that no more than 20% of available stewardship bonding authority in any fiscal year may be used to purchase parcels less than 10 acres in size. Further, the Act restored the authority of the Joint Committee on Finance to review stewardship projects through a passive review process, which was later modified by 2011 Act 32 (discussed later).

Stewardship Subprograms

The original stewardship program allocated funding among 12 categories of land acquisition and development programs. The program currently has three active statutory subprograms: (1) land acquisition; (2) property development and local assistance, and (3) recreational boating aids. Unless otherwise noted, an annual funding level has been established for each subprogram. Table 6 shows annual allocations by subprogram for the 2011 through 2020 fiscal years.

Prior to 2011, if the Department did not obligate the full amount allocated under a stewardship subprogram, DNR was directed to raise the annual bonding authority for the subprogram by an amount equal to the unobligated amount. 2011 Act 32 specified that this does not apply after fiscal year 2010-11. Beginning in fiscal year 2011-12, 23.0917(5g) of the statutes restricts DNR from carrying forward unobligated bonding authority into subsequent fiscal years, except as described later. Table 7 shows the annual unobligated balances of the stewardship program by program area for fiscal years 2011-12 through 2017-18. Occasionally, the Legislature will specify uses for

Table 6: Stewardship Program Allocations

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16 through FY20	10-Year Allocation Total
Land Acquisition							
DNR Acquisitions	\$46,500,000	\$16,833,000	\$20,525,000	\$14,000,000	\$13,600,000	\$9,000,000	\$156,458,000
NCO Acquisitions	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	7,000,000	95,000,000
County Forest Grants	1,500,000	1,167,000	1,875,000	6,000,000	4,500,000	5,000,000	40,042,000
BCPL Natural Areas	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0	0	6,000,000
Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)	0	5,200,000	0			0	5,200,000
County Dam Safety Grants	0	300,000	100,000	0	1,900,000	0	2,300,000
Subtotal	\$62,000,000	\$37,500,000	\$36,500,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$305,000,000
Recreational Boating Aids	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$25,000,000
Property Development and Local Assistance							
DNR Property Development	\$10,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$3,250,000	\$64,250,000
Motorized Stewardship	0	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	3,500,000
Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery*	0	0	0	0	7,000,000	0	7,000,000
Local Assistance Grants	11,500,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	69,500,000
Subtotal	\$21,500,000	\$20,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$9,750,000	\$144,250,000
Total	\$86,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$47,500,000	\$54,500,000	\$33,250,000	\$474,250,000

*\$26.6 million is enumerated for the Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery project by 2015 Act 55. This includes up to \$19.6 million in previously authorized but unobligated stewardship funds, along with the \$7 million set aside in fiscal year 2014-15.

unobligated stewardship funds. Legislatively directed stewardship expenses are discussed in a later section.

As shown in Table 7, approximately \$68.4 million of stewardship bonding authority was unobligated through fiscal year 2017-18. From that amount, 2015 Act 55 set aside \$27,855,300, and budget legislation in the 2017-19 biennium set aside \$30,265,300 for legislatively directed projects, as discussed in a separate section. This means that while the stewardship program is statutorily authorized to issue up to \$1,277.25 million in bonds over the life of the program, approximately \$10,324,800 in previously unobligated balances may not be utilized, bringing the effective bonding authority to \$1,266.93 million, as of December, 2018.

Land Acquisition Subprogram

DNR may obligate moneys under the land acquisition subprogram to acquire land for any of

the purposes specified under statute, such as forests, parks, fisheries or wildlife areas, and natural areas. The Department must give priority to the following purposes: (a) acquisition of land that preserves or enhances the state's water resources, including land along the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway and land abutting wild rivers, wild lakes (defined in administrative rule as "a lake or flowage of at least five acres...identified in the Wisconsin register of waterbodies, where human influence, such as structural development of its shorelands, is not significant or can be removed at costs deemed warranted by the Department), and land along the shores of the Great Lakes; (b) acquisition of land for the stream bank protection program; (c) acquisition of land for habitat areas and fisheries; (d) acquisition of land for natural areas; (e) acquisition of land in the middle Kettle Moraine; and (f) acquisition of land in the Niagara Escarpment corridor.

The Department has set additional priorities for the acquisition of recreational land in

Table 7: Stewardship Annual Unobligated Balances by Fiscal Year

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Biennial Total	Total
Land Acquisition									
Department Acquisitions	\$2,225,300	\$530,800	\$3,167,200	\$8,558,600	\$2,609,900	\$5,742,300	\$870,400	\$6,612,700	\$23,704,500
Grants to NCOs	6,592,000	4,753,200	--*	--*	--*	--*	--*		11,345,200
County Forest Grants	23,700	4,900	232,200	954,000	9,396,900	5,617,300	6,789,200	12,406,500	23,018,200
BCPL Natural Areas	2,729,900	362,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,091,900
PACE Grants	375,900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	375,900
County Dam Safety Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	\$11,946,800	\$5,650,900	\$3,399,400	\$9,512,600	\$12,006,800	\$11,359,600	\$7,659,600	\$19,019,200	\$61,535,700
Recreational Boating Aids	95,500	13,000	500	19,800	0	0	0	0	\$128,800
Property Development and Local Assistance									
DNR Property Development	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Assistance Grants	<u>6,745,900</u>	<u>3,300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,700</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,780,900</u>
Subtotal	\$6,745,900	\$3,300	\$0	\$0	\$31,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,780,900
Total	\$18,788,200	\$5,667,200	\$3,399,900	\$9,532,400	\$12,038,500	\$11,359,600	\$7,659,600	\$19,019,200	\$68,445,400
NCO Carryover to County Forest Grants for Use in the Following Fiscal Year*			4,910,700	4,984,600	1,930,600	3,980,500	1,700,000		--*

*2013 Act 20 specifies that beginning in fiscal year 2013-14, any remaining unobligated balances from the annual allocation for grants to NCOs may be carried over into the following fiscal year for county forest grants.

administrative rule (NR 1.40), such as placing primary emphasis on acquiring lands within 40 miles of Wisconsin's 12 largest cities: Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Waukesha, and West Allis. In addition, the Department, with the advice and consent of the Natural Resources Board, periodically updates its acquisition strategy to address evolving ecological, social, and land use trends. The Department released the Wisconsin Land Legacy report in January, 2006, which provides a guideline for applying land acquisition criteria and priorities statewide. An updated DNR land acquisition strategy for the stewardship program for fiscal years 2009-10 through 2019-20 was approved by the Board in December, 2010.

The Department undertakes projects based on various criteria. The top priority for acquisition is for the consolidation and completion of existing projects. When a state park, forest, wildlife area or recreation area is planned, a map showing the desired borders for the entire project is drawn. Usually, not all of the land proposed for the project is for sale at that time. DNR purchases property that

is available within the mapped boundaries and then purchases additional parcels as they come onto the market to fill out the project borders. Additionally, acquisition projects are also targeted toward meeting three goals: (a) provide the public with the land base needed for high-quality nature-based outdoor recreational experiences; (b) preserve Wisconsin's high-conservation-value lands and waters; and (c) maintain a portfolio of public lands that supports and enhances Wisconsin's nature-based economy.

The Department seeks to acquire lands to protect: (a) rare and threatened natural resources, genetic and biological diversity, and critical fish and wildlife habitat; and (b) water-based resources, including land for protecting and improving surface and ground water quality and land for recreation along streams, rivers, lakes and flowages. The Department also considers whether the land is under threat of conversion or impairment and whether DNR would be successful at acquiring a meaningful amount of land to meet recreation and conservation goals. In addition, the land's potential for return on investment, in the form of nature-based tourism, or generation of significant economic

activity (for example, wood products and biofuel industries) are also considered. Administrative rule NR 1.41 specifies which Department land acquisitions require Natural Resources Board approval. In general, all land acquisition projects greater than \$150,000 are subject to Natural Resources Board approval.

DNR closed two notable acquisitions in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 fiscal years. The first was the purchase of 990.6 acres in the Lower Chipewewa River State Natural Area (Dunn County) for \$1,898,000 from Northern States Power Company, approved by the Joint Committee on Finance in April, 2017. DNR reported the tract as containing significant concentrations of rare species and rare natural communities. The acreage purchased included mostly wetlands, with additional acres in forest uses and certain restored areas of dry sand prairie and flood plain savanna.

A second notable purchase, approved in June, 2018, by the Joint Committee on Finance, acquired an easement on 20,900 acres in Sawyer County from Northwoods ATP, a timber management company. The \$7.2 million purchase under the Forest Legacy Program is intended to preserve perpetual public outdoor recreational uses on the subject lands while maintaining the areas for commercial timber production. The easement provides for a \$515,000 endowment for the maintenance and preservation of 21 miles of private roads, which become open to public use under the acquisition.

2015 Act 55 requires DNR to set aside \$1 million for Department purchases for the Ice Age Trail. Beginning in 2010-11, DNR was required to set aside at least \$12 million annually (increased from \$8 million) for matching grants that may be awarded only to nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs). The allocation for grants to NCOs also included any grants made to NCOs for state trails and the Ice Age Trail. 2015 Act 55 reduces the amount set aside for NCOs from \$12 million annually to \$7 million annually, with any

remaining NCO allocation available for grants to county forests in the subsequent year.

Table 8 illustrates how funding is allocated under the land acquisition subprogram.

Table 8: Land Acquisition Subprogram (Annual Allotments)

	2014-15	2015-16 through 2019-20
Department Acquisitions	\$20,000,000	\$9,000,000*
County Forest Grants**	0	5,000,000
NCO Acquisitions	<u>12,000,000</u>	<u>7,000,000</u>
Total Annual Bonding Authority	\$32,000,000	\$21,000,000

*Including \$1 million for Ice Age Trail acquisitions, and is limited to one-third (\$3 million) each year for fee title acquisition.

**While DNR did not allocate any land acquisition funds for county forest grants in fiscal year 2014-15, under 2013 Act 20, the Department was allowed to utilize the approximately \$4.9 million in unobligated NCO grants from fiscal year 2013-14 for county forest grants in fiscal year 2014-15.

Grants for County Forests

2007 Act 20 created a program under the land acquisition subprogram to provide grants to counties to acquire land to be included in a county forest. Each county receiving a grant under this program is required to provide matching funds of at least 50% of the land acquisition costs. Further, a county is prohibited from converting the land or the rights in the land acquired using program grant money to a use that is inconsistent with the type of nature-based outdoor recreation for which the grant was awarded, without the approval of the Natural Resources Board. (Counties had always been eligible for stewardship local assistance grants; 2007 Act 20 extended eligibility to the land acquisition subprogram.)

In order to be eligible for a grant to acquire land for inclusion in a county forest, administrative rule NR 51 requires a county to have land entered in the county forest law program under s. 28.11(4) of the statutes, and to have entered into a memorandum of agreement with DNR. The rule

also establishes criteria for evaluating and ranking applications for grants to counties to acquire land for inclusion in a county forest. These criteria include: (a) whether the project meets the criteria for county forests under s. 28.11; (b) whether the project has regional or statewide significance; (c) the degree to which the site is threatened by development or conversion to other land use; (d) whether the project is within the county forest boundary identified in the county forest comprehensive land use plan, a 15-year county forest land use management plan approved by the county board and DNR; and (e) whether the project is identified as an important acquisition within an existing plan or database, including the land legacy report, statewide forestry plan, Forest Legacy plan, county forest comprehensive land use plan, or other document. Annually, DNR will provide notice of the maximum funding allotment to counties for grants to acquire land for county forests through a process defined in the memorandum of agreement.

In addition, 2007 Act 20 also created a program under the land acquisition subprogram for projects for which DNR requests a county's assistance to acquire land for nature-based outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. The Department has defined "nature-based outdoor

recreation" in administrative rule to mean "activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature." These activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, and multi-use trail activities. NR 51 specifies that to receive a grant to assist DNR with land acquisition, a county must have been asked in writing by the DNR Secretary or his or her designee to assist with the acquisition of title in fee simple or conservation easement acquisition. Counties are required to provide matching funds of at least 50% of eligible costs. To date, the Department has not awarded any grants under this program.

Prior to 2015 Act 55, DNR had discretion over the amount of annual land acquisition subprogram funding allocated to county forest grants. Act 55 specifies that \$5 million annually be set aside from the land acquisition subprogram only to provide grants to counties primarily for county forest grants. (The Department retains the discretion to allocate more than that amount.) In addition, 2013 Act 20 specified that, if at the end of a given fiscal year, any of the allocation for NCOs remains unobligated (currently \$7 million), DNR may carry-forward the unobligated bonding authority into the following fiscal year to be used only to provide

Table 9: Land Acquisition Allotments for County Forest Grants

Fiscal Year	Total Allotment	Allocated for County Forest Grants	Percent of Base Allocation to County Forest Grants	Carried Over from NCO Grants	Total Available for County Forest Grants
2010-11	\$62,000,000	\$1,404,000	2.26%	N.A.	\$1,404,000
2011-12	37,500,000	1,167,000	3.11	N.A.	1,167,000
2012-13	36,500,000	1,875,000	5.14	N.A.	1,875,000
2013-14	32,000,000	6,000,000	18.75	N.A.	6,000,000
2014-15	32,000,000	4,500,000	14.06	\$4,910,700	9,410,700
2015-16	21,000,000	5,000,000	23.81	4,984,600	9,984,600
2016-17	21,000,000	5,000,000	23.81	1,930,000	6,930,000
2017-18	21,000,000	5,000,000	23.81	3,980,500	8,980,500
2018-19 and 2019-20	21,000,000	5,000,000*	23.81		

*\$5 million annually is allocated under 2015 Act 55, in addition to any carryover NCO funds from the prior fiscal year. Carryover amounts of \$1,700,000 from 2017-18 will be available in 2018-19.

grants in that fiscal year to counties to acquire land to be included in a county forest. Table 9 shows the annual county forest allotments from the land acquisition subprogram from fiscal year 2010-11 through 2019-20. Through June 30, 2018, the Department has awarded grants totaling \$17.1 million under the county forest program. Table 10 shows summary information for selected county forest land acquisition grants in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 fiscal years.

Table 10: Selected Recent County Forest Acquisition Grants

Project Name	County	Acres	Grant Cost	Fiscal Year
Upper St. Croix	Douglas	1,324	\$1,096,900	2018
Spring Lake	Forest	458	403,000	2018
Camp Lyle Boy Scout Camp	Langlade	522	664,300	2017

County Dam Safety Grants. 2011 Act 32 requires DNR to set aside funding from the land acquisition subprogram for two purposes not ordinarily covered under the stewardship program, including \$6 million from the land acquisition subprogram for dam safety grants to counties under s. 31.385 of the statutes. Grants may only be awarded for a county-owned dam that is under an order by DNR for maintenance, repair, modification, abandonment or removal as of July 1, 2011. Grants are provided for up to 25% of eligible project costs, with a maximum grant award of \$2,500,000 (\$10,000,000 project). Through fiscal year 2017-18, DNR has awarded \$2.4 million under this program. Of those amounts, \$1.7 million has been expended as of December, 2018. Stewardship funding of \$449,400 has been expended on a project to demolish the Estabrook Dam in Milwaukee County. Additionally, \$1,262,200 has been expended on four projects in Vernon County.

Stewardship Acquisition Limits and Project Boundaries. 2013 Act 20 created three limits on DNR land acquisitions under the program. First, of stewardship bonding authority allocated in a

year for Department acquisitions (currently \$9 million), DNR may obligate not more than one-third for the purchase of DNR land in fee simple; at least two-thirds of allocated bonding authority would be used for county forest grants or DNR acquisitions of easements.

Second, s. 23.0917(8)(g) of the statutes specifies that, unless the Joint Finance Committee approves the land acquisition, beginning July 1, 2013, the Department may not obligate any moneys from the stewardship program for DNR to acquire land that is outside a project boundary. The Act defines a "project boundary" under this section as the boundary of a project established by the Department on or before May 1, 2013. Under this provision, a land acquisition is approved by Joint Finance if 12 of the 16 members of the Committee vote to approve the purchase.

Finally, DNR may not acquire land if the number of acres held by the Department in fee simple (approximately 1.5 million acres on July 1, 2018) exceeds 1.9 million acres, unless the Joint Committee on Finance approves the proposed acquisition under a 14-day passive review process.

Sale of DNR Lands. 2013 Act 20 requires the Natural Resources Board on or before June 30, 2017, offer for sale at least 10,000 acres of DNR property located outside the project boundaries established as of May 1, 2013. The Governor directed the agency to include productive agricultural land in the land sale. In addition, Act 20 specifies that the net proceeds of sales be used for the following, as applicable: (a) to repay any outstanding public debt used to finance the acquisition or improvement of the property, including providing a sufficient amount for the costs of maintaining federal tax law compliance applicable to any such debt; (b) to pay the federal government any of the net proceeds required by federal law, if the property was acquired or improved with federal financial assistance; and (c) if the property was acquired by gift or grant or acquired with gift or grant funds, to adhere to any restriction governing

use of the proceeds. After meeting any of the aforementioned requirements that apply, any remaining net proceeds must be used to pay principal on outstanding public debt issued under the stewardship program.

Under procedures approved by the Natural Resources Board (NRB) at the December, 2013, meeting, the Department has been selling land to the following three groups in descending order of priority: (1) sale to a unit of government or a Wisconsin sovereign tribal nation; (2) private sale for trespass or boundary settlement or with adjacent property owner under special circumstances; and (3) public sale to the general public. Minimum selling prices are to be established for each parcel approved for sale and the Department will obtain a title commitment that will be available to any prospective buyer. Parcels that are land locked and have no legal access are to be marketed to adjoining landowners through a competitive bidding process. Parcels that have legal access from a public road will be offered for sale to local or tribal governments that have expressed interest in the parcel and then to the general public through a competitive bidding process. DNR will work closely with local municipalities and adjoining landowners to ensure that trail corridors or other access easements are perpetuated prior to marketing any parcel for sale.

The Natural Resources Board approved 10,275 acres to be offered for sale, with the last approval of parcels occurring in October, 2016. Table 11 shows the status of DNR land sales under 2013 Act 20.

Use of Future Bonding Authority For Certain Land Acquisitions. Beginning in fiscal year 1999-00, DNR may obligate under the land acquisition subprogram any amount not in excess of the total bonding authority for that subprogram for the acquisition of land, subject to the approval of the Governor and the Joint Committee on Finance under a 14-day passive review process. For such transactions, the Department must sell a portion of

Table 11: Land Sales under 2013 Act 20

Fiscal Year	Parcels Sold	Acres Sold	Land Proceeds	Stewardship Debt Discharged
2013-14	2	8.4	\$3,620	\$3,620
2014-15	10	312.1	788,340	780,895
2015-16	8	335.7	236,098	235,723
2016-17	142	3,144.4	4,087,344	3,820,485
2017-18	<u>53</u>	<u>847.8</u>	<u>1,296,372</u>	<u>1,054,409</u>
Total	215	4,648.4	\$6,411,774	\$5,895,132

the acquired land. All proceeds from such sales, up to the amount obligated for the original purchase, are credited to a program revenue appropriation for the payment of principal and interest associated with such purchases. Any sale proceeds in excess of the amount originally obligated are deposited in the general fund.

For bonds that are retired from the proceeds of the sale of the acquired land within three years after the date on which the land was acquired by DNR, the Department must adjust the available bonding authority for the land acquisition subprogram by increasing the available bonding authority for the fiscal year in which the bonds are retired by an amount equal to the total amount of the bonds issued for the sale that have been retired in that fiscal year.

For bonds that are not retired from the proceeds of the sale of the acquired land within three years after the date on which the land was acquired, DNR must adjust the available bonding authority for the land acquisition subprogram by decreasing the available bonding authority for the next fiscal year, beginning after the end of that three-year period, by an amount equal to the total amount of the bonds that have not been retired from such proceeds in that fiscal year. Further, if necessary, the Department shall decrease for each subsequent fiscal year the available bonding authority in an amount equal to that available bonding authority or equal to the amount still needed to equal the total amount of the bonds that have not been retired

from such proceeds, whichever is less, until the available bonding authority has been decreased by an amount equal to the total of the bonds that have not been retired. The Department requested this authority in 1999 to fund the \$25 million "Great Addition" purchase in Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. It was requested again in 2001 to purchase lands for the Peshtigo River State Forest for \$25 million.

Under another provision, DNR is permitted to, for a given fiscal year, in addition to obligating the amount of the annual bonding authority for a subprogram, obligate up to 100% of the annual bonding authority for that subprogram for that given fiscal year for a project or activity. Therefore, DNR could obligate bonding authority up to double the annual allotment for a subprogram in a given year. The Department must then adjust the annual bonding authority for that subprogram by lowering the annual bonding authority for the next fiscal year by the amount utilized beyond the authorized amount for the subprogram. In order for the Department to use this provision, the Natural Resources Board must determine that: (a) funds are otherwise insufficient; (b) any land involved in the project or activity covers a large area or the land is uniquely valuable in conserving the natural resources of the state; and (c) delaying or deferring all or part of the cost to a subsequent fiscal year is not reasonably possible. DNR used this authority for several purchases totaling approximately \$38 million in the 2006-07 through 2008-09 fiscal years.

Under s. 23.0917(5m)(c) of the statutes, lands acquired using these provisions do not have to be for conservation or recreational purposes. The Department of Administration (DOA) is required to monitor all transactions under these provisions to ensure compliance with federal law and to ensure that interest on the bonds is tax-exempt for the holders of the bonds.

Property Development and Local Assistance Subprogram

Although property development and local assistance are components of the same subprogram, they serve different purposes. The property development component primarily addresses property development on DNR-owned land, while the local assistance program awards grants to local or tribal governments and NCOs to acquire land for nature-based outdoor recreation and to local governments for nature-based recreational development on local conservation land.

Beginning in fiscal year 2015-16, 2015 Act 55 provides \$3.75 million each year in stewardship bonding authority for DNR property development. Further, of \$3 million in one-time forestry SEG appropriated each year in 2015-16 and 2016-17, \$3,524,000 is available as of June 30, 2018, for property development.

2015 Act 55 also reduced the amount allocated for local assistance grants from a maximum of \$8 million annually to a set amount of \$6 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2013-14. Table 12 illustrates how funding is allocated annually under the property development and local assistance subprogram.

Property Development. Funding obligated for property development is used for: (a) property development on DNR land; (b) property development on conservation easements adjacent to DNR land; and (c) grants to friends groups and nonprofit conservation organizations for property development activities on DNR land. Under statute, DNR (similar to other state agencies) is required to submit a six-year facility plan to the DOA Division of Facilities Development and Management listing the development needs of the agency's facilities and setting a preliminary timeline for their completion. Appendix V provides information on recent major property development projects.

Table 12: Property Development and Local Assistance Subprogram (Annual Allotments)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 Through 2019-20
DNR Property Development	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$3,250,000
Motorized Stewardship*	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000
Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery			0	7,000,000	0
Local Assistance Grants	<u>8,000,000</u>	<u>8,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>
Total Annual Bonding Authority	\$20,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$9,750,000

*Motorized stewardship projects are subtracted from the DNR property development allocation beginning in fiscal year 2013-14. DNR plans to continue to allocate \$500,000 annually for motorized stewardship projects.

Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery. 2013 Act 20 provided \$14 million for infrastructure improvements to the Kettle Moraine Springs (KMS) fish hatchery from the property development and local assistance subprogram, including \$7 million in fiscal year 2014-15 and \$7 million in 2015-16. The Act would have allowed DNR to carry-forward the \$14 million allocation for the hatchery through June 30, 2017. 2015 Act 55 removed the \$7 million allocation from fiscal year 2015-16 bonding authority. Instead, the Act specifies that DNR utilize up to \$19.6 million in additional funds from existing stewardship bonding authority that was not obligated in fiscal years 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 for the KMS project, for a total of \$26.6 million available for the project.

The Kettle Moraine Springs fish hatchery and nearby "annex," located in Sheboygan County, is utilized for a significant portion of DNR Great Lakes fish stocking. According to the Department, the deteriorating condition of the facilities at the Kettle Moraine Springs hatchery could lead to an inability to meet Great Lakes fish stocking goals, and renovation of Kettle Moraine Springs is the Department's highest priority in the fish propagation system.

Estimated Kettle Moraine Springs total renovation costs are approximately \$26.6 million as shown in Table 13. The Joint Committee on Finance in April, 2018, and the Building Commission in June, 2018, approved DNR proceeding

with the project using stewardship funding. As of September, 2018, the project is in final design, and \$1,289,800 has been expended. Final project costs will be determined based on DNR's final design plan.

Table 13: Kettle Moraine Springs State Fish Hatchery Infrastructure Preliminary Estimated Costs

2018 Estimated Construction Cost (escalation rate of 3.4%)	\$20,130,000
Contingency (10% of estimated construction cost)	2,012,600
Architectural/Engineering Design Fee (approx. 8.3% of construction)	2,190,700
Hatchery Equipment, Hazardous Material Abatement, Other Fees	1,381,000
DOA Construction Management Fees (4% of construction + contingency)	<u>885,700</u>
Total	\$26,600,000

Motorized Stewardship Grants. 2013 Act 20 specifies that stewardship property development subprogram funds may be used for aids to the state, counties, villages or towns for the following snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), and utility terrain vehicle (UTV) trail aid projects: (1) snowmobile trail project costs including: (a) development of trails; (b) the cooperative snowmobile sign program; (c) major reconstruction or rehabilitation to improve bridges on existing approved trails; (d) trail rehabilitation; and (e) signing of snowmobile routes and state snowmobile trails

and areas; and (2) ATV and UTV projects including: (a) acquisitions of easements and land; (b) development of facilities, routes, and trails; (c) development of a snowmobile route or trail or an off-road motorcycle trail or facility if the route, trail or facility is open for use by ATVs; (d) improvement of ATV trails for use by UTVs; and (e) placement of signs briefly explaining the law related to intoxicated operation of ATVs and UTVs. A DNR grant may not exceed 80% of eligible project costs, meaning at least a 20% local match is required.

In fiscal year 2016-17, the Department awarded seven grants, totaling \$499,700 for motorized stewardship trail projects including the construction of a new trail bridge, development of three ATV and UTV campgrounds, construction of an ATV trailhead restroom, building fencing for a motorized recreation area, and resurfacing an ATV trail.

In fiscal year 2017-18, the Department awarded seven grants, totaling \$504,000. A project that was completed under budget in the prior fiscal year enabled the Department to grant more than \$500,000 from this subprogram. Grants awarded in 2018 included the rehabilitation of a snowmobile bridge, rehabilitation of two snowmobile trails, relocation of a snowmobile trail and development of a new bridge, development of two ATV campgrounds, and resurfacing an ATV trail.

Local Assistance. Funding obligated for local assistance may be used for: (a) grants for acquisition of urban green space; (b) grants for acquisition and development of local parks; (c) grants for acquisition of property development rights; and (d) grants for acquisition and development of urban rivers. Stewardship funds may generally be provided for up to 50% of eligible project costs. Administrative rule NR 51 further addresses the administration of these grant programs. NR 51 specifies that playgrounds may be eligible for development of local parks grants only as "support facilities" and only if they "occupy a minor portion

of the grant property" and do not take away from the primary purpose of the project. Further, the rule also specifies that ineligible acquisition or development projects include, but are not limited to "acquisition and development of areas and facilities that do not meet the definition of nature-based outdoor recreation as defined in NR 51 such as spectator sports, stand-alone playgrounds, swimming pools, dedicated sports fields, tennis courts and hockey rinks."

Recent Grants to Local Units of Government

Through June 30, 2018, DNR has provided a total of approximately \$172.4 million in stewardship grants to local units of government under the local assistance program as shown in Appendix IV. An additional \$1.4 million in enumerated grants were drawn from unobligated stewardship funds. (Local Assistance grants to NCOs are included in the "Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations" section of this paper.)

In fiscal year 2016-17, the Department provided 29 local assistance grants totaling \$5,191,300. Grants included trail development, urban riverfront rehabilitation, new and enhanced boat launches, fishing piers, property acquisition to support trail development, and similar public outdoor recreation projects.

In fiscal year 2017-18, the Department provided 30 local assistance grants totaling \$5,980,000. Projects included trail development, urban riverfront rehabilitation, new and enhanced boat access, fishing piers, campground renovations, property acquisition to support park development, and similar public outdoor recreation projects. The Department further obligated \$1,000,000 for Saxon Harbor (Iron County) and \$415,300 for the Twin Trestles project in the cities of Neenah and Menasha, as required by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59. (In 2015-16, the Department awarded two grants with funds totaling \$800,000 to Neenah and Menasha for initial funding of the project.) The Saxon Harbor and Twin Trestles projects are described in a separate section.

Recreational Boating Aids Subprogram

2007 Act 20 created a recreational boating aids subprogram and dedicated \$1.5 million in 2007-08 and \$2.5 million annually beginning in 2008-09 to this subprogram. Also under Act 20, \$1.5 million in 2007-08 and \$2.5 million annually beginning in 2008-09 in water resources account SEG (motorboat gas tax) was transferred from the recreational boating aids program to a DNR appropriation dedicated to grants for the control of aquatic invasive species. With \$400,000 remaining water resources SEG, funding for recreational boating grants totals \$2.9 million annually.

Under the recreational boating aids program, DNR provides grants to municipalities, counties, town sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, qualified lake associations, the Milwaukee River Revitalization Council, and the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board for up to 50% of the costs (or more in certain circumstances) of developing recreational boating facilities approved by the Waterways Commission. The Waterways Commission is a five-member board appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered, five-year terms. Grants are available for recreational boating projects that include providing public access via boat ramps and related parking facilities, navigational aids or markers, dredging, weed removal, and capital equipment used for trash or debris removal.

Recent Recreational Boating Aids Grants

In the 2016-17 and 2017-18 fiscal years, the Department awarded the following large recreational boating aids grants: (a) \$550,000 was awarded to the City of Port Washington to repair concrete caps on its Lake Michigan breakwater; (b) a total of \$663,600 was awarded to Iron County to rebuild Saxon Harbor, which was destroyed by flooding in July, 2016; and (c) the City of Marinette was awarded \$449,500 to add more docks, lighting, landscaping, and rest

facilities to Menekaunee Harbor.

Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

NCOs are eligible to apply for grants under both of the major stewardship subprograms, the land acquisition subprogram and the property development and local assistance subprogram. Funds received as grants under the land acquisition subprogram are used to acquire land for a variety of purposes, such as habitat areas, natural areas, streambank protection, trails, and wild lakes, in accordance with the statutorily enumerated priorities for land acquisition funding.

Funding is set aside from the land acquisition subprogram for grants to NCOs. 2015 Act 55 reduced the amount of land acquisition funds set aside annually for grants to NCOs from \$12 million to \$7 million beginning in 2015-16. As mentioned in a preceding section, 2013 Act 20 specifies that, if at the end of a given fiscal year, any of the NCO allocation remains unobligated, DNR may carry forward the unobligated bonding authority into the following fiscal year to be used only to provide grants in that fiscal year to counties to acquire land to be included in a county forest.

Section 23.096(2)(b) of the statutes allows the Department to award grants to NCOs for up to half the cost of acquiring property. However, under 2007 Act 20, beginning in fiscal year 2010-11, grants of up to 75% of the property acquisition costs may be made to NCOs if the Natural Resources Board determines that all of the following apply: (a) that the property is uniquely valuable in conserving the natural resources of the state; (b) that delaying or deferring the acquisition until 50% of the acquisition costs are procured by the NCO is not reasonably possible; and (c) that sufficient bonding authority remains in the \$7

million set aside for land acquisition grants to NCOs for that fiscal year, after awarding grants to nonprofit conservation organizations that meet the 50% matching requirement.

Before receiving a grant, s. 23.096(3) of the statutes specifies that an NCO must enter into a contract with DNR. The contract must: (a) specify standards for the management of the property to be acquired; (b) prohibit use of the property as security for any debt, unless DNR approves; and (c) prohibit the property to be acquired from being closed to the public, unless DNR determines it is necessary to protect wild animals, plants or other natural features. (Beginning on or after October, 27, 2007, fee title acquisitions and easements on former Managed Forest Law (MFL) land acquired using stewardship funds are generally required to be open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing subject to the requirements under s. 23.0916. It is common for NCO acquisitions to be subject to this requirement as well.) In addition, the contract must specify that any subsequent sale or transfer of the property by the NCO may be made only with the approval of the Department and only if the potential owner enters into a new contract with DNR. If the NCO violates any essential provision of the contract, title to the acquired property will vest in the state.

NCOs are also eligible for matching grants under the property development and local assistance subprogram. Matching grants may be given to NCOs for property development and habitat restoration on land owned by the Department, acquisition of urban green space, acquisition of local parks and urban rivers areas, and for the purchase of development rights (easements) for conservation purposes. NCOs are not eligible for development of local parks. As mentioned previously, all funds expended under this subprogram must be used for nature-based outdoor recreational purposes.

In addition, DNR may provide up to \$250,000

each year in matching grants to friends groups and NCOs for property development activities on Department-owned property, with no more than \$20,000 in grants for any property in a given fiscal year. Friends groups have first option on available funds.

Small groups that do not qualify as a nonprofit organization may enter into a partnership with a qualified NCO to apply for a one-time stewardship grant of up to \$20,000 for habitat restoration and land acquisition. Under this provision, the qualified NCO would act as the fiscal agent for the grant and would retain title to the land.

Contracts with Third Parties. DNR is currently authorized to contract with nonprofit conservation organizations (including land trusts) and other third parties to perform land management, maintenance, and improvement activities on Department land. In addition, 2011 Act 32 authorized DNR to receive gifts, grants, and bequests of money, materials, or services from NCOs and other donors for the performance of these activities on Department land. The Act also specifies that DNR may acknowledge the performance of these activities on DNR land through signs, bulletins, pamphlets or other communications.

DNR is required to submit a report to the Joint Committee on Finance annually by November 15, which includes information on costs of contracts with NCOs and other third parties, activities performed, and the cost-effectiveness of the contracts in the prior year. The fiscal year 2017-18 report categorized DNR contracts with private companies and NCOs totaling approximately \$7.2 million. Project categories included: (a) boat access maintenance; (b) habitat maintenance; (c) fish hatcheries projects; (d) invasive species control; (e) land, wildlife area, and wetland maintenance and management; and (f) facilities, trails, and dam/dike land maintenance.

Recent Grants to NCOs

As of June 30, 2018, 76 NCOs (not including

friends groups) have been awarded 815 grants under 10 of the stewardship components, as follows: (a) 306 grants for natural areas; (b) 287 habitat areas grants; (c) 68 for the Ice Age Trail; (d) 48 grants under the stream bank protection program; (e) 21 grants for urban green space; (f) 29 grants under the acquisition of development rights component; (g) 12 grants for acquisition of local park lands; (h) 13 grants under urban rivers; (i) four grants under state trails, (j) nine in the Baraboo Hills program and (k) 18 grants were awarded through a mixture of funds from the multiple components listed above.

Since the inception of stewardship NCO grants, several NCOs have received multiple grants, including The Conservation Fund, Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Natural Heritage Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy, among others. In the last two fiscal years, two NCOs received their first Stewardship grants: Geneva Lake Conservancy and Green Lake Conservancy. Nonprofit grantees represent all regions of the state -- The Ice Age Trail Alliance, Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Foundation, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, Door County Land Trust and Northwoods Land Trust among them. Stewardship grant awards by county are summarized in Appendix IV.

In 2017-18, the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust was awarded a grant to purchase 143 acres at Red Banks State Natural Area, one of the most ecologically sensitive and unique landscapes in the state. The tract sits on Wisconsin's largest and best example of a Great Lakes Alvar, a rare community type that occurs on flat limestone or dolomitic bedrock with shallow soils. Alvar areas are found in only five regions in the world; among the special collection of plant and animal species at this site, Red Banks Alvar hosts one of the most diverse land snail communities known in the Midwest. The property lies just north east of Green Bay and is open to the public for hunting, trapping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and cross-country skiing.

The Prairie Enthusiasts received grants in fiscal year 2016-17 and fiscal year 2017-18 for acquisition of bluff-top prairie and oak savanna preserves in Iowa County. These two acquisitions add to a landscape dotted with preserved pockets of the native prairie that once dominated southwestern Wisconsin. Both parcels – one 17 acres, one 39 – offer ridge top views of the Lower Wisconsin River, and host native dry prairie and oak savanna communities. The Prairie Enthusiasts own and manage these, among many other preserves, to preserve high quality and diverse concentrations of rare species. Managers collect seed from these properties to support restoration projects elsewhere in the region, where local seed types are essential to restoration success. To date, The Prairie Enthusiasts have planted over 500 acres with seeds collected from their preserves, many of which are Knowles-Nelson Stewardship lands.

Public Access on Stewardship Lands

The use of DNR lands is guided by statute and administrative code. 2007 Act 20 [s. 23.0916(2) and (3) of the statutes] specified that land acquired by DNR or acquired through a stewardship program grant in fee simple, or acquired by an easement or other conveyance that was withdrawn from the managed forest law (MFL) program on or after October 27, 2007, must be open to the public for nature-based outdoor recreational activities, unless the Natural Resources Board determines that a closure is necessary to: (a) protect public safety; or (b) protect a unique plant or animal.

Administrative rule NR 1.61 refers to the public use of Department land and states, "except as prohibited or regulated by rule or statute, all department land shall be open for: (a) traditional outdoor recreational uses, including hunting, fishing, trapping, walking, nature study and berry picking; and (b) other types of recreational uses, including camping, bicycling, equestrian uses, field trials,

and snowmobiling or other motorized activities, as authorized on a parcel by the property master plan." Exceptions to the public access requirements include fish, game, and wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, certain specified areas within state parks, and locations within close proximity to hospitals and schools where certain types of public access and/or hunting may be prohibited.

Administrative rule NR 52 defines a nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) as "the nature based public outdoor activity of hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, or cross-country skiing," consistent with the minimum requirements under s. 23.0916(1)(b) of the statutes. The rule specifies that decisions to prohibit public access for these activities will be reviewed by DNR staff using "professional judgment and will be based on sound science, legitimate safety issues, factual data, and relevant information." It further specifies that a restriction of a nature-based outdoor activity may be considered a prohibition if the restriction would prevent a significant amount of the nature-based activity from occurring.

Further, administrative rule NR 52.01(3) specifies that the Natural Resources Board has determined that administrative rules NR 1.61 and 51.07(3)(e) govern public access on all other lands funded in whole or in part with stewardship funding. In addition, administrative rule NR 51.07(3)(e) requires that property acquired by a nonprofit conservation organization (NCO) using stewardship funds may not be closed to the public unless the Department determines that it is necessary to protect species of plants, wild animals or other natural features, or if the right of public access is not acquired as part of the rights purchased with an easement.

Hunting and Trapping. Additionally, since 2013 state parks must be open to hunting, fishing, and trapping. However, DNR may prohibit hunting, fishing, or trapping in a state park or a portion of a state park if the area is: (a) within 100 yards of a designated use area; or (b) if the Natural

Resources Board determines that prohibiting hunting, fishing, or trapping is necessary to protect public safety or to protect a unique plant or animal. (2011 Act 168 requires four or more of the seven members to concur in that determination.) In addition, the Department has established two time periods during which hunting and trapping is permitted in state parks during seasons that fall within these time periods including: (a) spring - gun and archery hunting and limited trapping are allowed in the open areas of the property from April 1 through the Tuesday nearest May 3; and (b) fall/winter - gun and archery hunting and trapping are allowed in the open areas of the property from November 15 through December 15, except that hunting with legal archery methods is allowed through the Sunday nearest January 6. According to the Department, most state parks have some areas open to hunting and trapping during these time periods. However, due to property size, proximity to urban or residential areas, environmental sensitivity and other factors, some state park properties do not allow hunting or trapping. Maps are available at each property, and on the Department's website, showing the areas open to hunting and trapping.

All properties are open for state fishing seasons, except that bow and spear fishing follow the same state park rules as hunting. Bow and spear fishing is prohibited within 100 yards of a beach, boat launch, or fishing pier within a state park.

Prior to 2007, lands purchased with stewardship funds were not required to be open to nature-based outdoor recreational activities. In response to concerns raised regarding the level of public access on lands purchased using stewardship funds, specifically public access for hunting and trapping, in 2007, the Department conducted an analysis regarding public access on stewardship land. DNR found that, for land acquired by fee or easement through the land acquisition subprogram of the stewardship program from 1990 to 2006, approximately 94% of lands were open to hunting. The Department indicates that since 2012 all parcels acquired by the

Department using stewardship funds are open to hunting. In addition, the analysis found that, for land acquired through DNR stewardship grants to local units of government and NCOs, 62% were open to hunting. DNR grant staff indicate that since October, 2007, 94% of lands purchased with stewardship grants are open to hunting. The Department indicates that prohibitions on NBOAs on stewardship lands are almost always due to local ordinances, rather than departmental discretion.

Under the local assistance subprogram, the Department provides grants to local governments and NCOs for land acquisition and development. Moneys obligated under this subprogram may only be used for nature-based outdoor recreation. Hunting access on these lands is controlled by the local unit of government. Acreage held in easement by local units of governments is not open for public hunting; however, hunting may be allowed on some of these lands by certain individuals with the landowner's permission.

2007 Act 20 specifies that, if the Department authorizes an NCO to charge a fee for hunting on stewardship land, the fee for the hunting season may not exceed the state park daily resident vehicle admission fee (typically \$8). Under the Act, these requirements do not apply to stewardship easements for trails, land acquired or managed for the Ice Age Trail, and easements where the primary purpose of the easement is not public access.

Exemptions. Certain Department lands are statutorily allowed to be closed to public access for hunting and trapping. For example, section 29.091 of the statutes prohibits hunting and trapping within a wildlife refuge. Additionally, hunting may be allowed in some habitat areas, but may be prohibited in others where it would compromise the production or protection of a particular species. The acreage where hunting is not permitted on lands acquired under the land acquisition subprogram also includes boat access sites and park entrance/visitor stations.

The Department is prohibited from permitting any use of a designated state natural area that is "inconsistent with or injurious to its natural values." The Department also has the authority under s. 23.28 of the statutes to establish use zones within designated state natural areas and to limit the number of people accessing certain zones within that natural area. Further, several other DNR property types are also closed to hunting including: (a) administrative facilities such as ranger stations; (b) forest nurseries; (c) boat access sites; and (d) certain conservation easements, such as those acquired to allow for fishing along certain trout streams and certain habitat protection easements.

Allowing NBOA Restrictions. For Department acquisitions, administrative rule NR 52 requires DNR to incorporate an evaluation of public access requirements in all Department master plans and other planning documents that include land acquisition as an implementation strategy and in all revisions to plans for existing projects subject to the public access requirements under s. 23.0916(3) of the statutes (exceptions include fish and game refuges, etc.). Appendix VI illustrates the public access requirements for stewardship land acquisitions.

For non-department land acquisitions, the rule specifies that all stewardship program grants for land acquired with stewardship funds in fee simple or through an easement on former MFL land are required to include a description of the public uses proposed for the property being acquired and a checklist indicating which of the specific NBOAs will be permitted on the property. The checklist must include: (a) an indication as to whether a specific NBOA shall be allowed on the property; (b) for hunting, information regarding allowing waterfowl, small game, turkey, and big game hunting, and both gun and archery hunting; (c) for trapping, information regarding allowing water trapping and upland trapping; (d) for fishing, information regarding permitting shore fishing and boat fishing; (e) for hiking, information regarding

allowing trail hiking and hiking off-trail; and (f) for cross-country skiing, information regarding allowing groomed trail skiing and off-trail skiing.

Additionally, s. 23.096(3) of the statutes specifies that, in order to receive a stewardship grant, an NCO must enter into a contract with the Department that details standards for management of the property. For grants to NCOs, the state holds a reversionary interest in the property, meaning that if the NCO converts the use of the property to one inconsistent with the contract, the title to the acquired property vests in the state. Closed acreage on lands purchased using stewardship funds that are controlled by NCOs generally include lands where development rights were acquired to buffer existing public lands from development or land that was acquired with a stewardship grant prior to October 27, 2007 (the effective date of s. 23.0916).

In addition, a stewardship grant application checklist must also include a description of the NBOAs to be prohibited on the property, if any, and the reason for the prohibition. These may relate to protecting public safety, protecting a unique animal or plant community, or accommodating usership patterns, if applicable, subject to the provisions under s. 23.0916 of the statutes.

Under NR 52, Department staff evaluate each proposal to prohibit an NBOA and determine whether the prohibition will be allowed. The rule specifies the criteria for making the determination of whether to allow the prohibition of an NBOA for each of the allowable categories of prohibition. Under the rule, factors that Department staff should consider when evaluating a proposal to prohibit an NBOA include: (a) the primary purpose for the project; (b) laws and ordinances that may impact one or more NBOAs on the property; (c) user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOA(s) on the property and user incompatibility and how this incompatibility may lead to the primary purpose of the project being significantly altered or

curtailed; (d) the complexity, feasibility, practicality, and cost-effectiveness of separating activities by time and space or any other manner that might mitigate user incompatibility and/or reduce the need for enforcement; (e) the physical characteristics of the property, including size, shape, ground cover, topography or proximity to inhabited buildings that create public safety issues and influence NBOAs on the property as well as surrounding land uses, including the use of public lands immediately adjacent to the property, which may or may not have been funded with stewardship funds; (f) the necessity to prohibit an NBOA to protect and enhance the biological diversity, composition and ecological functions of natural communities exhibiting relatively little human disturbance or that have the capacity to be easily restored to such conditions; (g) the potential for an NBOA to impact the natural values of the site, as defined in s. 23.27 of the statutes; (h) the potential for an NBOA to accelerate or increase over time and cause damage to the natural values of a site; and (i) the potential for an NBOA to increase the risk of poaching rare plant or animal species, or the removal or destruction of rare geological or archeological features.

2011 Act 32 removed the accommodation of usership patterns from the allowable reasons for prohibition of a nature-based outdoor activity. However, if the property was acquired for a state trail or the Ice Age Trail, access could continue to be restricted to accommodate usership patterns.

In addition, Department grant staff also evaluate proposed permitting or registration systems for NBOAs to determine whether the restriction would prevent a significant amount of an NBOA from occurring, and constitute a prohibition under administrative rule NR 52.01(1) and 52.02(10). Staff are guided by a number of factors in deciding whether the permit system is reasonable, including the following: (a) the purpose of the permit or registration system; (b) whether there is a reporting requirement, voluntary or required; (c) the permit application methods (by mail, internet, in person,

and/or by phone); (d) whether there is a fee, and if so, whether the fee is equal to or less than the cost of a daily Wisconsin resident park admission sticker (typically \$8); (e) whether the system is exclusive or favoring a particular user group, such as residents over non-residents; (f) whether the system is designed to create and/or improve an NBOA opportunity; and (g) whether there was public input into the design and implementation of the proposed system.

For any stewardship proposal to prohibit an NBOA, DNR is required to provide electronic public notice to any individual asking to receive such notice. This is followed by a public comment period and, if an objection is received during the comment period, an evaluation period. If an objection is received, DNR is required to create a written summary of its determination on the proposal to prohibit one or more NBOAs at the end of the public comment and evaluation periods.

The Department submits a report to the Natural Resources Board for each regularly scheduled board meeting that summarizes Department staff determinations regarding proposed prohibitions of NBOAs for DNR acquisitions or stewardship grant awards. The report is submitted to the Board and the information made available to the public over the internet at least five working days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Administrative rule NR 52 requires the Board to allow public participation and receive public testimony regarding DNR's determinations and vote whether to ratify prohibitions of NBOAs on non-department land included in the report.

For proposed prohibitions of NBOAs on land acquired by DNR that is not subject to s. 23.0916, NR 52 does not require the Board to vote to ratify the prohibitions included in the report. However, the Board generally does vote on whether to approve the DNR land acquisition transaction as a whole.

If a stewardship land transaction includes a

prohibition of an NBOA, four or more members of the Natural Resources Board are required under s. 23.0916 to concur in the determination that the prohibition is necessary, in order for the transaction to be approved by the Board. In practice, the Department indicates it submits stewardship land acquisition projects subject to s. 23.0916, including grants for land acquisition, where DNR has determined an NBOA would be prohibited, or significantly restricted, to the Natural Resources Board for review. Further, all Department land acquisition projects over \$150,000 are submitted to the Board for review, as required under administrative rule NR 1.41. (The rule also requires Board approval for certain other land acquisitions including land acquisitions with substantial improvements or land acquired by gift.)

Public Information

Administrative rule NR 52 addresses the public notice requirements associated with the Department's determinations regarding NBOA prohibitions. The rule specifies that these determinations are subject to the public notice requirements of administrative rule NR 150. These generally require a news release including information about the project sponsor, location, and type, potential to cause adverse environmental impacts, a contact person at DNR for comments, and a date by which comments must be submitted to DNR for consideration.

In addition to the public notice requirements under administrative rule NR 150, administrative rule NR 52 requires DNR to provide individual notification over the internet to any person requesting to receive a notice of any proposal to prohibit an NBOA. Specifically, the rule requires any public notice regarding a proposal to prohibit an NBOA to include: (a) the name, address, and phone number of the Department's contact person for the project; (b) the checklist indicating which specific NBOAs will be permitted on the property; (c) a summary of the NBOAs to be prohibited; and (d) the Department's initial assessment of the

proposal to prohibit the NBOA, including an evaluation of the criteria described in the rule, and involving the Department's resource management professionals at the local, regional, and statewide level. DNR complies with this requirement through the use of an email sign-up feature available through the Department's website, which delivers news releases to a subscriber's email address containing the required information for each stewardship project.

Further, the rule establishes a public comment period of 15 business days beginning on the day immediately following the day the Department sends out the notice electronically, during which public comments concerning the proposal may be submitted, in writing, to DNR. Objections are required to show the proposed prohibition of an NBOA is inconsistent with the public access requirements of s. 23.0916(2)(b) or (3)(b), as well as administrative rule NR. 52.05. If an objection is received by DNR during the 15-day comment period, DNR has up to 15 additional business days from the close of the comment period to evaluate the public comments, including any objections. During this time, DNR must contact any person that submitted an objection and the project sponsor to notify them that the objection was received and to gain more information about the proposal. At the end of the public comment and evaluation period, DNR must create a written summary of its determination whether to allow the prohibition of an NBOA to anyone who submitted an objection and to the project sponsor.

2009 Act 28 requires DNR to provide a report to the Joint Committee on Finance and standing committees on natural resources by November 15 of each odd-numbered year identifying each property acquired in the previous biennia that is not open for one or more of the required nature-based outdoor recreational activities and the reason for the closure.

In the November, 2017, report, DNR identified two department acquisitions during fiscal years

2015-16 and 2016-17 where public access is restricted, and 10 grant projects acquired using stewardship funds where public access for one or more of the required nature-based outdoor activities was restricted. The most common prohibition is for gun hunting. The majority of these restrictions were related to protecting public safety.

In addition, 2007 Act 20 required DNR to establish and maintain an interactive mapping tool at the Department's website that identifies all stewardship land that is open for public access. The mapping tool is available without charge on the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/PAL/application.html>. 2011 Wisconsin Act 95 requires DNR to make available to the public a written directory of all stewardship land open for public access. The directory is organized by county and town to clearly show the location of stewardship land and named or numbered roads. The directory must be updated at least every two years. DNR may prepare the directory or may make available a map, book, or directory published by a private entity. DNR may charge a fee for the directory, but it may not exceed the cost of preparing and publishing the directory.

DNR also is to make a list of all stewardship land acquired before October 27, 2007, for which public access has been restricted or prohibited and the reasons for that action, and make it available to the public by December 21, 2013. The atlas is available for purchase online.

Further, 2007 Act 20 required an owner of stewardship land, or DNR, if the land is surrounded by DNR land, to provide notice of public access to the stewardship land in the form of specific signs placed at major access points on the stewardship land to identify the land as acquired using stewardship funds. This must occur within six months of receiving stewardship funds. The Act specifies that the signs be at least 108 square inches and made of a durable substance. The Act requires the signs to include: (a) either the primary activities that are restricted or prohibited on the

stewardship land; (b) the name of the owner of the stewardship land or a person to contact regarding the stewardship land; and (c) if the stewardship land has a cumulative acreage of 10 acres or more, the postal address or telephone number of the owner of the stewardship land or other contact or an internet website address where a person can locate that information.

2007 Act 20 also specified conditions under which a sign may be replaced. If a landowner fails to comply with signage requirements, the landowner would be ineligible for state aid under the stewardship program until DNR determines that the landowner is in compliance.

Motorized Access

Under s. 23.116 of the statutes, DNR must inventory and map all roads on DNR-owned property. Each map designates which roads are open to the public for the use of motorized vehicles and states when each road is open or closed for such use. Existing road conditions are collected and inventoried. This data is incorporated in the Department's mapping tool, located on the DNR website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/pal/>.

In addition, 2013 Act 20 specifies that DNR work in cooperation with the public, governmental units, and other interested parties to evaluate roads using ecological, economic and social criteria to develop a motorized vehicle access plan and an implementation plan for the access plan for each DNR-owned property. The Department indicates the master planning process is the framework for the public and partners to engage in discussions about future use and development of road access. The master planning process provides public involvement opportunities during the process and again when the plan is presented to the Natural Resources Board for approval.

Further, 2013 Act 20 modified s. 23.115 of the statutes, to specify that, in addition to the Department's current ability to designate trails,

campgrounds, and special use areas for property under its control, it may also designate roads. These roads must be shown on maps available at the Department's district office, on a sign outside the office on the property, or on signs placed by the designated roads at the option of the Department. The requirement that the Department must inspect "designated features" twice a year does not apply to roads. Further, the Act modifies s. 895.52(1)(g) of the statutes (recreational land use immunity) to specify that recreational activity includes "operating a vehicle [as defined under s. 340.01(74)] on roads designated under s. 23.115". The Department indicates road designations are being updated as part of the master planning process.

Stewardship Earmarks

Beginning in the 1991-93 biennium, statutory earmarks from the stewardship program have been included in some legislative acts. Appendix VII contains a list of each statutory earmark since the 1991-93 biennium.

2015-17 Biennial Budget. 2015 Act 55 specifies that DNR may utilize previously unobligated bonding authority from fiscal years 2011-12 through 2013-14 for three projects including: (a) up to \$19.6 million for infrastructure improvements at the Kettle Moraine Springs fish hatchery, as described in a separate section of this paper; (b) up to \$5.0 million for a project to replace the Little Falls Dam at Willow River State Park in St. Croix County; and (c) any remaining unobligated funds for county dam safety grants under section 31.385(7) of the statutes, until the total fiscal year 2011-12 through 2013-14 unobligated funds are obligated or the total amount obligated from the stewardship program for the 2011 Act 32 county dam safety grants reaches \$6 million.

The \$5 million in stewardship program funds

for the Little Falls Dam was in addition to \$3,041,700 in general fund-supported borrowing provided for the project, for a total enumeration of \$8,041,700. The Little Falls Dam was previously found to have several problems and concerns to be addressed by the project, including: (a) addressing the spillway capacity and dam stability; (b) repairing or replacing dam gates; (c) repairing voids on the downstream side of the dam; (d) providing backup power on site in the event of an emergency; (e) installing benchmarks for future dam monitoring; and (f) installing signs for a portage route.

In addition, 2015 Act 55 directs DNR to provide stewardship funds in the amount necessary, but not to exceed \$1.6 million, from the local assistance grant program to the cities of Neenah and Menasha for up to 50% of the costs of a project to construct two pedestrian bridges across the Fox River -- one bridge across the south branch of the Fox River in Neenah and one bridge across the north branch of the Fox River in Menasha, and completion of the associated 3.2-mile trail loop, referred to as the Twin Trestles project.

2017-19 Biennial Budget. 2017 Act 59 specifies that DNR may utilize previously unobligated bonding authority from fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16 for several projects, including: (a) up to \$1,000,000 for a grant to Iron County for a project to rebuild Saxon Harbor marina and campground; (b) up to \$1,000,000 for the acquisition of an approximately 13-mile long abandoned rail corridor between Dover and Sturtevant, in Racine County; (c) up to \$750,000 for a grant to the Friends of Peninsula State Park, Inc. for up to 50% of the costs to rebuild the Eagle Tower in Peninsula State Park; (d) up to \$500,000 for a project to enhance a shelter located near the Palmatory Scenic Overlook on the south side of the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area; and (e) an additional grant of up to \$415,300 for the Neenah-Menasha Twin Trestles project. Further, Act 59 authorized an additional \$7.5 million for the Little Falls Dam project.

2017 Act 59 also amends the statutory authority for the DNR municipal flood control (MFC) program and provides a matching grant of up to \$14,600,000 to support a project executed by the Army Corps of Engineers under the federal Flood Control Act. Funds for the grant are to be obligated from unobligated stewardship funding from fiscal years 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17. As of December, 2018, the project in the City of Arcadia is in the planning phase and no statutorily obligated funds have been expended. 2017 Wisconsin Act 369 extended the authorization to expend the funds through June 30, 2021.

Finally, 2017 Wisconsin Act 71 authorized DNR to expend, from 2016-17 unobligated stewardship bonding amounts, up to \$4,500,000 for critical health and safety-related water infrastructure projects in state parks. Priority is to be given to projects in parks with the highest demands.

Stewardship Program Oversight

Under administrative rule NR 1.41, the following land transactions require the approval of the Natural Resources Board: (a) acquisitions where the purchase price is \$150,000 or more; (b) acquisitions where more than 40 acres are outside of an established project boundary; (c) acquisitions where the purchase price exceeds the highest appraised value; (d) acquisitions where improvement values exceed 35% of the total appraised value; (e) acquisitions of short tenure with substantial increased value; and (f) sales of state land that are no longer needed for conservation purposes where the value exceeds \$50,000 or where the area exceeds 40 acres. In addition, s. 23.15 of the statutes requires all proposals for the sale of any land under the jurisdiction of DNR, determined by the Natural Resources Board to be no longer need for conservation purposes, to be

submitted to the Governor for his approval.

Grants to local governments and NCOs generally are not subject to review by the Natural Resources Board. However, all projects go through an internal scoring process and review by Department staff. In addition, 2011 Act 32 requires that, in order for public access for nature-based outdoor activities to be prohibited on land acquired using stewardship funds in fee title or through an easement on former MFL land, the Natural Resources Board must determine that a closure is necessary to: (a) protect public safety; (b) protect a unique plant or animal; or, (c) to accommodate usership patterns, if acquired for a state trail or the Ice Age Trail. As a result, a summary of those stewardship grants for which a prohibition of an NBOA is proposed are submitted to the Natural Resources Board for approval.

Building projects over \$1,000,000 are required to be specifically enumerated in state law and reviewed by the State Building Commission for approval prior to bidding. The Legislature typically enumerates these projects in the state budget. Also, any state-funded development project in excess of \$300,000 must be reviewed by the State Building Commission for approval prior to bidding. Building projects up to \$300,000 in costs, which are referred to as small projects, are required to be reviewed by the Department of Administration Division of Facilities Development and Management for approval prior to bidding.

2011 Act 32 required that all stewardship projects of over \$250,000 be subject to a 14-day passive review procedure. Under the Act, the Committee has 14 working days from the receipt of a stewardship passive review request to notify DNR that a meeting has been scheduled. If, within that time period, the Joint Committee on Finance Co-Chairs do not notify DNR that a meeting has been scheduled, DNR may proceed with the project. Under 2011 Act 32, if the Co-Chairs schedule a meeting by the Joint Committee on Finance, a majority vote is required to approve the proposal.

2015 Act 55 specifies that all fee simple land acquisitions north of State Trunk Highway 64 acquired using stewardship funds are subject to review by the Joint Committee on Finance under a 14-day passive review process. State Trunk Highway 64 runs east-west across Wisconsin from U.S. Highway 41 in the City of Marinette to the Minnesota state line on the Stillwater Bridge in Stillwater, Minnesota.

From July 1, 2011, through December, 2018, Joint Finance had reviewed 197 stewardship projects, including 65 DNR acquisitions and 132 grants under the various oversight provisions, including 22 projects less than \$250,000 but north of Highway 64.

In 1994, DNR established the Stewardship Advisory Council and solicited membership from a wide range of organizations with an interest in the stewardship program. The Council consists of 12 to 20 members appointed by the DNR Secretary. At least five of the members represent organizations that own and manage land for conservation purposes and have direct experience with the stewardship program, and five members represent local governments. The Council periodically meets to advise DNR on policy and administrative issues relating to the program and to determine ways the Department, nonprofit groups, and local units of government can improve communication and work more effectively together. The current nine-member Council last met in June, 2016.

Stewardship Debt Service

The state generally issues 20-year tax-exempt general obligation bonds to support stewardship purchases and grants. Debt service for stewardship bonding is primarily funded from a sum-sufficient, general purpose revenue (GPR) appropriation in DNR. In addition, since 1999-00 funds have been appropriated from the forestry account

Table 14: Stewardship Debt Repayments

Fiscal Year	SEG	GPR	Land Sales Proceeds (PR)	Total
2007-08	\$13,500,000	\$34,104,900		\$47,604,900
2008-09	13,500,000	37,603,700		51,103,700
2009-10	18,500,000	7,235,000		25,735,000
2010-11	16,000,000	17,537,400		33,537,400
2011-12	13,500,000	13,767,000		27,267,000
2012-13	13,500,000	66,324,000		79,824,000
2013-14	13,500,000	73,464,500	\$2,026,000	88,990,500
2014-15	13,500,000	55,781,800	295,500	69,577,300
2015-16	13,500,000	61,258,300	643,000	75,401,300
2016-17	13,500,000	70,380,500	0	83,880,500
2017-18	13,500,000	61,740,800	4,739,710	79,980,510
2018-19*	13,500,000	69,457,900	**	82,957,900

*Budgeted.

**The net proceeds received from land sales as required under 2013 Act 20 are to be used for stewardship debt repayments. Any amounts will reduce GPR amounts on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

of the segregated conservation fund. Under current law, \$13.5 million SEG is provided on an ongoing basis from the forestry account.

Table 14 shows state stewardship related debt services costs over a 12-year period. While the majority of the debt service shown is related to the stewardship program, a portion of the payments are related to bonding mostly authorized prior to the creation of the first stewardship program for several similar recreational land acquisition programs, and for a local dam repair and removal grant program.

From 2009-10 through 2011-12, GPR debt service payments for the program declined significantly due primarily to the state's decision to defer payment of principal on a large portion of its outstanding GPR-supported, general obligation debt, including the stewardship program debt. In addition, as noted previously, 2013 Act 20 requires the Natural Resources Board to, on or before June 30, 2017, offer for sale at least 10,000 acres of DNR property located outside the project boundaries established as of May 1, 2013, and specifies that proceeds are to pay principal on outstanding public debt issued under the stewardship program. As

shown in Table 14, proceeds from land sales made prior to 2013 Act 20 reduced stewardship debt service by approximately \$7 million from fiscal year 2013-14 to fiscal year 2017-18 (215 parcels had been sold totaling 4,648 acres as of July 1, 2018).

Appraised Versus Assessed Value

Assessors and appraisers generally determine the value of property based on the property's highest and best use that will produce the greatest net return to the property owner over a reasonable period of time. Three methods are generally accepted in determining the value of property.

- Under the sales comparison method, value is determined by analyzing recent sales of property that are similar in size, age, use, location and other factors.
- Under the cost method, the value of the land is estimated and added to the cost of replacing any attached structures.

- Under the income method, the present value of the property is determined from the estimated future income derived from the property. While all three approaches are accepted, the sales method is the approach most commonly used in the stewardship program and private real estate transactions that involve property with similar characteristics.

Commonly accepted definitions of highest and best use utilized by appraisers generally take into account four different factors when making the determination:

- Physical possibility, taking into account the size, terrain, soil composition and utility availability for the parcel that may limit the use of the land;
- Legal permissibility, including applicable zoning regulations, rezoning prospects, building codes, deed restrictions, historic district controls and environmental regulations;
- Financial feasibility, meaning any use that produces a positive rate of return based on the characteristics of the property; and
- Maximum productivity, under which no other use of the land would provide a greater net return to the owner based on land costs, physical characteristics, legal constraints and the economic characteristics of the surrounding area.

For a particular piece of property, there may be some difference of opinion among those doing the property valuation regarding any of these factors. The physically possible uses of the parcel, for example, would be influenced by the proximity of a sewer line to the parcel. The legally permissible uses of a parcel of land could be affected by current zoning designations and a particular municipality's history of approving zoning changes that affect the ability of land in the municipality to be developed. In these cases, assessors, appraisers, and potential buyers must make certain

assumptions related to these factors to be able to determine a value for the property.

Providing less than the fair market value for land could be considered a taking without just compensation in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Further under s. 32.09(5)(b) of the statutes, any increase or decrease in the fair market value of a property caused by any public improvement for which property is acquired, or the likelihood that the property would be acquired for such an improvement, may not be taken into account in determining just compensation for the property.

Questions have sometimes been raised about prospective acquisitions for which the appraised value was significantly greater than the assessed value. Assessed value is the value placed on a property by the local unit of government for property tax purposes. Most assessors value property at some fraction of market value, despite a statutory requirement that property be assessed at full value. A series of court cases, dating back to the 19th century, has interpreted statutes to allow assessed values at a fraction of market value, provided the same fraction applies to all property in the taxation district. As a result, local assessors can assess property at a level below market value without violating the state constitution's requirement of uniform taxation.

DNR, local governments, and NCOs hire private real estate appraisers to determine the fair market value of prospective land purchases. A large disparity between assessed and appraised value may result from local assessors significantly undervaluing all property, not having updated assessments, or as a result of local land use policies. If open space that could be preserved is likely to otherwise be developed, it is often within the power of localities to zone the land in such a way as to maintain it in a relatively undeveloped state, if that is the preferred local option. In addition, a significant contributor to the rapidly escalating value of some properties may be a municipality's

history of rezoning agricultural or open space land to allow residential or commercial development.

The power of zoning as a tool for land preservation, however, is limited by the willingness of the locality to maintain land in an undeveloped state. Further, zoning ordinances must allow a reasonable use of the property by the owner to avoid a taking of private property for public use.

For certain stewardship grant applications submitted beginning October 27, 2007, an acquisition estimated to cost over \$350,000 requires at least two appraisals, with one paid for by the grant applicant and one obtained by DNR. 2011 Act 32 clarified that two appraisals are required to determine the "current" fair market value of the land for all stewardship land acquisition grants to local units of government and NCOs for land where DNR estimates the current value at over \$350,000.

Under 2001 Act 16, DNR is required to provide the appraisals of any property acquired using stewardship funds to the clerk and the assessor of the local unit of government where the property is located within 30 days of acquiring the property. In addition, assessors are directed to include the information in the appraisals (including comparable sales) when setting land values.

2011 Act 32 modified a provision regarding grants for the acquisition of land owned by the seller for less than three years. The Act specifies that for land that has been owned by the current owner for less than one year, the buyer's acquisition price equals the sum of the current fair market value "and other acquisition costs, as determined by rule by the department" or the current owner's acquisition price, whichever is lower. In addition, for land that has been owned by the current owner for one year or more but for less than three years, the Act specified that the buyer's acquisition price shall equal the lower of the following: the sum of the current fair market of the land and "other acquisition costs, as determined by rule by the department" or the sum of the current owner's

acquisition price and the annual adjustment increase (5% of the owner's acquisition price if over one year but less than two, and 10% for two years but less than three). The Act made sections 23.0917(7)(b) and (c) consistent with s. 23.0917(7)(a), which specifies that, for stewardship grants for the acquisition of land owned for longer than three years, "the acquisition costs shall equal the sum of the land's current fair market value and other acquisition costs, as determined by rule by the department." By making these sections consistent, the Act allows DNR to award stewardship grants for 50% of allowable acquisition costs (including 50% of such costs as land surveys, title insurance, recording fees, and appraisals) for the acquisition of land owned by the current owner for less than three years, as the Department had done for stewardship grants for the acquisition of land owned by the current owner for three or more years.

For the purpose of awarding grants under stewardship, the acquisition costs equal the sum of the land's current fair market value and other acquisition costs, as defined in rule by DNR. As appraisals are considered an eligible expense under the program, DNR would reimburse the applicant for up to 50% of the appraisal cost. If, however, DNR decides to conduct a second appraisal, the Department would not pay for any portion of the initial appraisal submitted by the grant applicant, meaning the Department would pay for one appraisal and the grant applicant would pay for one appraisal. DNR is allowed to require a third appraisal from the applicant. If DNR determines that a third appraisal is necessary, DNR would pay for up to 50% of the cost of the third appraisal.

Aids in Lieu of Property Taxes

DNR pays aids in lieu of property taxes on land holdings to the jurisdictions in which the land is

located. Payments may vary based on the date of DNR's acquisition. Since 1992, when DNR acquires land, the Department pays aids to the city, village, or town in which the land is located to approximate the tax that would be due on the estimated value of the property at the time it was purchased, adjusted annually to reflect changes in the equalized valuation of all land, excluding improvements, in the taxation district. The municipality then pays each taxing jurisdiction, including the county and school district, a proportionate share of the payment, based on its levy. Prior to July 1, 2011, the estimated value typically equaled the purchase price, while after that date the value typically represents the equalized (property tax) value in the year prior to purchase.

2015 Act 55 specifies that, in fiscal year 2015-16, 45% of payments of aids in lieu of taxes for lands acquired after 1991 be made from the forestry account of the conservation fund, and the remainder from GPR. Beginning in fiscal year 2016-17, 50% of these aids are paid from the forestry account with 50% from GPR.

Table 15 shows aids in lieu of property tax payments for the past 10 years. The amounts shown in the table include approximately \$364,000 GPR and \$780,000 SEG annually for payments for lands acquired prior to January 1, 1992.

Table 15: Aids in Lieu of Property Tax Payments

Fiscal Year	GPR	SEG	Total
2009-10	\$7,675,400	\$4,736,500	\$12,411,900
2010-11	8,305,000	4,736,400	13,041,400
2011-12	7,842,000	5,619,300	13,461,300
2012-13	7,389,700	6,246,200	13,635,900
2013-14	8,031,200	6,246,800	14,278,000
2014-15	7,444,700	6,246,700	13,691,400
2015-16	6,309,700	7,229,300	13,539,000
2016-17	7,433,900	6,097,100	13,531,000
2017-18	6,603,900	7,015,100	13,619,000
2018-19*	6,672,500	7,350,000	14,022,500

*Budgeted.

Estimated Value. 2011 Act 32 specifies that estimated value means either the lower of the equalized value of the property in the year prior to purchase by DNR or the purchase price, and that in cases where the property had been previously tax-exempt, the calculation would be the lower of either: (a) the purchase price; or (b) the last recorded equalized value, or a payment of \$10 per acre, whichever amount was greater.

Since land purchased by the Department that was enrolled in the forest crop law (FCL) or managed forest law (MFL) programs is not technically considered tax-exempt (though is subject to preferential tax treatment), FCL and MFL continue to be assigned assessed values. As a result, aids in lieu of taxes payments for FCL or MFL parcels purchased by the Department were typically calculated based on the full assessed value. This generated significantly greater amounts to the local government than typically received in payments under the FCL or MFL programs. For example, the Department of Revenue estimates that local governments received approximately \$2.10 per acre on average in MFL fees in 2011-12 (80% to towns and 20% to counties), versus approximately \$33 per acre for similar forest lands not in the program.

In order to conform to the original intent of 2011 Act 32, the formula for lands acquired after July 1, 2011, was amended by 2013 Act 20 to specify that in cases where the property had been tax exempt in the year prior to acquisition, or enrolled in the FCL or MFL program at the time of purchase, estimated value means the lesser of either the purchase price or an amount that would result in a payment of \$10 per acre. In all other cases for land purchased after July 1, 2011, estimated value would continue to mean the lower of either the equalized value of the property in the year prior to purchase by DNR or the purchase price (as under prior law).

The amount determined under this formula would continue to be adjusted annually to reflect

changes in the equalized valuation of all land, excluding improvements, in the taxation district. This provision was included to ensure that the aids in lieu of taxes payments for lands previously enrolled in the FCL or MFL programs would more closely resemble the payment amounts received by the local jurisdiction under the forest tax law programs. While the \$10 per acre payment is higher than the amount local governments would have received under the FCL or MFL programs, it was chosen to reflect the fact that FCL and MFL orders expire (MFL orders last 25 or 50 years) and may, or may not, be renewed. Parcels that are not renewed in MFL would return to the property tax rolls.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

While not a stewardship program, \$28 million in general fund-supported bonding is available for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Con-

sumer Protection to participate in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Under the federal land retirement conservation program, the state provides at least a 20% match to federal funds to provide financial incentives for farmers and ranchers who enroll in a minimum of 15-year conservation easements. Permanent easements are also allowed.

Under these easements, land is removed from agricultural production to improve water quality, erosion control, and wildlife habitat in specific geographical areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has authorized \$200 million in federal funds for Wisconsin to enroll up to 100,000 acres in CREP. Through June 30, 2018, approximately 36,000 acres of land were enrolled in CREP (29,300 acres in 15-year easements and 6,700 acres in perpetual easements). Net state expenditures under the program are \$18.1 million as of June 30, 2018. For additional information on CREP, please see the Legislative Fiscal Bureau informational paper entitled "Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement and Soil Conservation Programs."

Appendices

Following are seven appendices that provide additional information about the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship program.

- Appendix I provides a summary of expenditures under the stewardship program for fiscal years 2008-09 through 2017-18.
- Appendix II summarizes DNR land acquisitions funded from the stewardship program (original and reauthorized programs) by county, including the number of acres in each county for which an easement has been purchased, the number of acres acquired by fee title purchase and total expenditures made by DNR for both fee title and easement purchases in the county.
- Appendix III shows stewardship program land acquisitions where the purchase price was greater than \$5 million, or more than 10,000 acres were acquired.
- Appendix IV summarizes land acquisition and local assistance subprogram program activity by county, based on the location of the property involved, to local units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations.
- Appendix V provides information on major property development projects.
- Appendix VI illustrates the public access requirements for stewardship land acquisitions under ss. 23.0916(2) and 23.0916(3) of the statutes and Administrative Rule NR 52.
- Appendix VII lists earmarked projects authorized to use stewardship funding.

APPENDIX I

Stewardship Program Expenditures: Fiscal Year 2008-09 through 2017-18*

Category	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	10-Year Total
DNR Land Acquisition	\$34,137,300	\$26,577,100	\$42,380,700	\$19,047,400	\$28,652,000	\$17,142,900	\$16,466,800	\$10,118,100	\$8,493,700	\$2,894,400	\$205,910,400
NCO Land Acquisition	10,296,700	9,899,100	10,363,000	2,605,100	8,243,900	5,738,600	8,244,700	2,065,300	3,466,100	5,476,400	66,398,900
Baraboo Hills	2,000	368,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	370,000
Mirror Lake**	493,500	13,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	506,500
Local Assistance	7,440,400	8,312,900	7,554,900	6,766,300	9,643,900	8,027,100	5,834,000	6,008,400	5,397,000	5,914,200	70,899,100
Property Development	9,886,900	6,189,700	16,285,900	8,084,600	10,386,700	9,740,000	12,552,900	3,386,200	6,849,300	6,424,800	89,787,000
Recreational Boating	1,409,600	1,424,800	2,089,400	2,076,800	3,750,400	1,508,300	1,565,300	2,751,800	3,520,100	2,278,600	22,375,100
Dam Safety	0	0	0	56,200	0	294,200	401,600	0	444,800	0	1,196,800
PACE Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,824,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,824,100</u>
Total	\$63,666,400	\$52,784,600	\$78,673,900	\$43,460,500	\$60,676,900	\$42,451,100	\$45,065,300	\$24,329,800	\$28,171,000	\$22,988,400	\$462,267,900

*Includes expenditures related to bonding authority provided under the original Stewardship program.

**\$500,000 was provided from local assistance and \$500,000 from DNR land acquisition for the Mirror Lake earmark.

APPENDIX II

DNR Land Acquisitions Under Stewardship by County as of June 30, 2018

County	Easement Acres	Fee Acres	Total Acres	Federal Expenditures	Stewardship Expenditures	Total Expenditures
Adams	10,824	9,428	20,253	\$7,137,288	\$9,532,157	\$16,669,445
Ashland	384	2,674	3,057	252,125	3,727,002	3,979,127
Barron	51	979	1,031	18,000	1,350,726	1,368,726
Bayfield	16	13,356	13,373	2,920,059	8,109,606	11,029,665
Brown	274	1,789	2,063	499,421	3,250,445	3,749,866
Buffalo	1	1,937	1,938	19,200	1,366,056	1,385,256
Burnett	12	12,590	12,601	1,639,116	4,767,119	6,406,235
Calumet	19	1,783	1,801	57,660	2,610,513	2,668,173
Chippewa	300	6,746	7,046	713,597	5,602,365	6,315,963
Clark	5	224	229	0	476,290	476,290
Columbia	974	3,880	4,854	1,302,041	7,387,117	8,689,158
Crawford	971	9,834	10,805	188,540	9,615,336	9,803,876
Dane	2,439	6,863	9,302	1,617,512	25,057,233	26,674,744
Dodge	720	1,650	2,370	934,757	2,552,449	3,487,206
Door	2,544	2,289	4,833	3,084,527	7,598,050	10,682,577
Douglas	75,910	16,363	92,273	4,661,750	27,855,355	32,517,105
Dunn	1,083	5,280	6,364	456,978	5,966,182	6,423,160
Eau Claire	169	1,083	1,252	497,600	3,227,468	3,725,068
Florence	1,960	14,085	16,044	2	19,955,889	19,955,891
Fond Du Lac	1,800	6,221	8,021	3,445,792	5,198,962	8,644,754
Forest	62,780	862	63,641	0	27,628,328	27,628,328
Grant	1,339	4,643	5,982	422,701	6,311,075	6,733,776
Green	438	848	1,286	543,174	1,934,006	2,477,180
Green Lake	13	1,596	1,609	57,000	1,863,243	1,920,243
Iowa	1,495	5,976	7,471	72,868	10,777,655	10,850,523
Iron	16,846	46,517	63,363	623,859	31,897,553	32,521,412
Jackson	12	4,653	4,665	176,205	5,339,552	5,515,757
Jefferson	249	7,627	7,876	160,884	5,529,243	5,690,127
Juneau	497	6,296	6,793	1,048,881	8,067,457	9,116,338
Kenosha	178	673	851	644,005	2,982,843	3,626,848
Kewaunee	89	936	1,025	723,650	2,314,918	3,038,568
La Crosse	217	449	666	30,148	884,460	914,608
Lafayette	346	2,834	3,181	0	2,703,139	2,703,139
Langlade	18,847	2,502	21,349	3,421,050	8,658,815	12,079,865
Lincoln	20,726	8,425	29,151	3,816,502	9,410,222	13,226,724
Manitowoc	1,490	625	2,114	133,275	3,127,009	3,260,284
Marathon	1,427	3,932	5,359	1,159,821	6,436,939	7,596,760
Marinette	14,702	23,412	38,114	5,035,869	40,981,509	46,017,378
Marquette	903	2,640	3,544	369,244	2,322,108	2,691,351
Milwaukee	89	288	378	157,500	4,906,666	5,064,166

APPENDIX II (continued)

DNR Land Acquisitions Under Stewardship by County as of June 30, 2018

County	Easement Acres	Fee Acres	Total Acres	Federal Expenditures	Stewardship Expenditures	Total Expenditures
Monroe	663	1,352	2,014	\$566,756	\$1,403,508	\$1,970,264
Oconto	228	2,548	2,776	322,992	3,037,657	3,360,649
Oneida	12,606	37,421	50,027	2,018,602	47,876,283	49,894,885
Outagamie	24	6,120	6,144	709,500	8,490,740	9,200,240
Ozaukee	1,082	725	1,807	1,410,582	3,923,717	5,334,299
Pepin	274	2,349	2,623	319,500	2,885,474	3,204,974
Pierce	151	1,310	1,461	459,375	958,731	1,418,106
Polk	1,215	6,541	7,756	1,287,650	16,161,140	17,448,790
Portage	188	10,170	10,358	644,179	12,366,212	13,010,391
Price	37	538	575	0	552,412	552,412
Racine	39	1,061	1,100	347,497	2,526,047	2,873,544
Richland	815	4,925	5,740	242,386	5,429,187	5,671,572
Rock	804	3,639	4,443	1,069,082	2,703,625	3,772,707
Rusk	2	222	224	23,250	298,674	321,924
Sauk	210	10,158	10,368	2,537,083	17,912,839	20,449,921
Sawyer	4,623	2,391	7,014	80,990	3,290,939	3,371,929
Shawano	34	2,419	2,453	4,111,170	10,682,852	14,794,022
Sheboygan	18,253	2,057	20,309	6,650	3,437,713	3,444,363
St. Croix	266	3,851	4,117	1,131,835	10,532,275	11,664,110
Taylor	990	3,568	4,559	563,244	6,399,570	6,962,814
Trempealeau	138	1,519	1,657	136,283	889,597	1,025,880
Vernon	477	1,682	2,160	146,679	2,678,235	2,824,914
Vilas	3,255	7,558	10,813	65,500	14,146,152	14,211,652
Walworth	1,079	4,530	5,609	562,702	10,833,393	11,396,095
Washburn	176	3,829	4,005	0	6,264,927	6,264,927
Washington	760	2,537	3,297	3,307,500	11,223,030	14,530,530
Waukesha	459	5,695	6,154	392,951	29,531,124	29,924,075
Waupaca	720	2,757	3,477	1,090,307	4,574,484	5,664,791
Waushara	274	5,223	5,498	1,074,468	7,908,960	8,983,428
Winnebago	2,841	4,711	7,552	1,452,450	4,951,057	6,403,507
Wood	<u>28</u>	<u>1,522</u>	<u>1,549</u>	<u>87,900</u>	<u>2,293,431</u>	<u>2,381,331</u>
Total	295,849	389,719	685,569	\$74,211,660	\$595,447,047	\$669,658,707

APPENDIX III

Stewardship Program Transactions Over \$5 Million, or Where Acres Acquired Exceeded 10,000

Fiscal Year	Seller	County	Property	State Amount	Acres	Description	State Cost Per Acre
1991-2000							
1998	Four States Timber/Tenneco	Oneida	Willow Flowage	\$9,800,000	8,720	Joint Finance approval process sped up to allow close of sale. Includes 73 miles of shoreline, 106 islands and 7 boat landings.	\$1,124
1999	Packaging Corp. of America	Iron, Oneida, Lincoln, and Vilas	"Great Addition" additions to numerous properties including the Turtle-Flambeau and Willow Flowages	\$25,000,000	32,003	Purchased in two phases and DNR utilized borrow-ahead authority.	\$781
2001-2010							
2002	Wisconsin Public Service Corporation	Marinette and Oconto	Peshtigo River State Forest	\$25,000,000	9,239	Purchased in three phases and utilized borrow-ahead authority. Over 66 miles of river and flowage frontage.	\$2,706
2003	Tomahawk Timberlands	Iron, Oneida, Marathon, and Lincoln	Forest Legacy Easement (\$7.2 million project)	\$2,244,000	35,337	First Wisconsin easement under the federal Forest Legacy Program (\$7.2 million purchase, including \$5 million FED).	\$64
2004	Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corp.	Oneida, Vilas and Lincoln	Rainbow Flowage - Northern Highland/American Legion State Forest and New Wood Wildlife Area	\$7,950,000	5,875	Includes 63 miles of lake frontage, 4 boat landings and 10 islands.	\$1,353
2005	Burnkow Hardwoods and Western Wisconsin Land Trust	Polk	Straight Lake State Park & Ice Age Trail (\$10.6 million project)	\$7,830,000	2,779	Includes a 107 acre wild lake, flowages and 3.5 miles of Ice Age Trail. Additional \$2.77 million federal contribution brought purchase price to \$10.6 million.	\$2,806
2005	Plum Creek Timberlands	Langlade	Wolf River Forest Legacy Easement (\$9.2 million project)	\$6,180,600	18,512	29-square-mile easement for public recreation, timber management and development limits. Additional \$3 million FED provided for \$9.2 million total purchase.	\$334
2007, 2009, and 2010	International Paper	Florence, Forest and Marinette	Wild Rivers Legacy Forest Easement (\$39.7 million project)	\$35,100,000	64,630	In July, 2006, DNR acquired fee title on 5,629 acres and a conservation easement on 44,401 acres in Florence, Forest, and Marinette Counties for approximately \$33 million for the Wild Rivers Forest Legacy acquisition. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) also acquired an easement on approximately 14,600 acres as part of the project. In July 2008, the Department acquired an easement on approximately 7,300 acres from TNC at a cost of approximately \$3.2 million. Of the \$3.2 million, DNR received \$2.3 million in federal Forest Legacy funds to reimburse a portion of the purchase cost. In August, 2009 (fiscal year 2009-10), the Department acquired an easement on the remaining 7,300 acres (from TNC) for	\$543

Fiscal Year	Seller	County	Property	State Amount	Acres	Description	State Cost Per Acre
						\$3.5 million and received \$2.3 million in federal Forest Legacy funds as reimbursement. The almost 65,000 acre area includes more than 48 lakes and ponds, and more than 70 miles of rivers and streams. It is a working forest that also provides habitat for migratory waterfowl, trout, and other wildlife. The property offers a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, hunting, fishing, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.	
2008	Wausau Papers and The Conservation Fund	Douglas	Brule River State Forest Addition	\$6,111,400	5,889	Four non-contiguous parcels provided additional acreage in northern Brule River State Forest, permanently protected hunting and other public access rights on land previously open under the managed forest law program.	\$1,038
2009	Rainbow Springs Golf Company, Inc. and U.S. Residential Golf Properties, Inc.	Walworth and Waukesha	Rainbow Springs	\$10,800,000	970	Includes a 38-acre natural seepage lake, and three-quarter mile corridor of the Mukwonago River, an exceptional resource water and Class II trout stream. Designated as Mukwonago River Unit of Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Natural Resources Board approved borrow-ahead from a single year to cover full cost.	\$11,134
2011-2020							
2010	Wisconsin Timber Associates	Forest	Connors State Forest Legacy Easements	\$8,297,200	18,438	Easements consist of hemlock-hardwood forestland in Forest County acquired for the state Forest Legacy program. Adjacent to national forest and county forest land, which combined with this property protects two major wild lakes, Wabikon and Riley. The rivers flowing through the tract form the upper reaches of the Green Bay watershed. The property is managed using sustainable forest practices and provides public access for nature-based outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing.	\$450
2011 and 2012	Plum Creek Timberlands	Sawyer	Big Chip Buffer Easement (\$8.2 million project)	\$4,219,300	18,179	\$8.2 million conservation easement acquired in two phases including federal Forest Legacy funds of \$4 million. Provides buffers for the Chippewa Flowage, Wisconsin's largest semi-wilderness body of water, and the Chequamegon National Forest. The forestland is managed using sustainable forestry and provides recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, and hiking, among others.	\$232

Fiscal Year	Seller	County	Property	State Amount	Acres	Description	State Cost Per Acre
2012, 2015, and 2016	Lyme St. Croix Forest Company/ Lyme St. Croix Paper Company	Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, and Washburn	Total Costs: Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest Easement Phase I Phase II Phase III	\$16,704,300 (\$11,271,700) (\$1,866,100) (\$3,566,500)	72,958 (44,679) (21,189) (7,090)	The easement requires management using sustainable forest practices and provides public access for nature-based outdoor recreational activities including hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Phase II utilized \$3.75 million in federal Forest Legacy funds. Total project costs of \$20.45 million included \$16.7 million in stewardship funds and \$3.75 million federal funds.	\$229
2014	The Conservation Fund and RMK Timberlands	Iron	Twin Lakes Working Forest Easement	\$4,499,800	13,692	Approved by the Joint Committee on Finance in June, 2014. Purchased as part of the state's Forest Legacy Program. In the townships of Knight and Mercer, adjacent to county-owned land. The Twin Lakes include two adjoining lakes encompassing 52 acres with 8,700 feet of shoreline, which will provide fishing opportunities for bass and panfish (easement also includes four other small lakes covering 19 acres with 9,900 feet of frontage and there are also several trout streams on the property). Parcel is 89% forested, and the area contains important habitat for American marten (the only state-listed endangered mammal). The Twin Lakes area also provides habitat for deer, wolves, bear, bobcat, and possibly lynx and the easement will be open to hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing.	\$329
2018	Northwoods ATP L.P.	Sawyer	Lake of the Pines Conservation Easement	\$7,229,000	20,903	A working forest conservation and access easement in the townships of Winter and Draper in Sawyer County and is adjacent to county-owned land. This large contiguous forested landscape situated in the north central forest ecosystem provides important habitat for a variety of large mammals such as white tail deer, black bear, wolves, and bobcat, will help preserve the integrity of these northern forestlands in perpetuity, prevent fragmentation, and promote the sustainable use of the northern forests. The easement connects existing public land and provides road access for public outdoor recreation. DNR acquired rights for the public to use licensed motorized vehicles on 20.6 miles of private woods roads on the property. DNR set aside \$515,000 of the purchase price in an endowment with earnings available to assist in the costs to repair and maintain the open access roads within the easement area.	\$346

APPENDIX IV

Land Acquisition and Local Assistance Grant Programs Activity Under Stewardship by County as of June 30, 2018

County	Grants to Local Units of Government	Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations	County Forest Grants	Total Encumbrances/ Expenditures*
Adams	\$240,900	\$490,000	\$0	\$730,900
Ashland	1,160,600	688,600	0	1,849,200
Barron	616,200	0	323,700	939,900
Bayfield	2,437,600	2,302,000	2,265,800	7,005,400
Brown	9,514,300	1,280,300	0	10,794,600
Buffalo	331,100	495,100	0	826,200
Burnett	195,700	753,500	111,000	1,060,200
Calumet	1,228,100	241,700	0	1,469,800
Chippewa	2,084,500	2,499,600	424,600	5,008,700
Clark	599,900	0	1,300,300	1,900,200
Columbia	772,100	2,718,100	0	3,490,200
Crawford	494,300	2,103,500	0	2,597,800
Dane	25,113,400	24,062,000	0	49,175,400
Dodge	2,361,500	354,800	0	2,716,300
Door	7,756,100	22,754,300	0	30,510,400
Douglas	457,600	3,210,200	1,356,200	5,024,000
Dunn	487,400	934,100	0	1,421,500
Eau Claire	1,944,400	6,600	215,700	2,166,700
Florence	142,200	0	566,000	708,200
Fond Du Lac	1,579,400	280,700	0	1,860,100
Forest	480,600	0	2,752,400	3,233,000
Grant	1,412,900	2,328,700	0	3,741,600
Green	538,800	145,000	0	683,800
Green Lake	816,400	1,886,900	0	2,703,300
Iowa	67,200	6,755,100	0	6,822,300
Iron	654,400	0	97,600	752,000
Jackson	433,200	24,000	912,200	1,369,400
Jefferson	3,249,600	4,400,000	0	7,649,600
Juneau	1,785,500	898,400	0	2,683,900
Kenosha	5,179,900	1,249,900	0	6,429,800
Kewaunee	1,097,900	26,100	0	1,124,000
La Crosse	1,931,100	5,551,900	0	7,483,000
Lafayette	851,100	210,300	0	1,061,400
Langlade	1,187,500	99,600	3,521,400	4,808,500
Lincoln	910,100	53,600	0	963,700
Manitowoc	3,647,700	517,800	0	4,165,500
Marathon	2,116,700	403,900	362,000	2,882,600
Marinette	1,320,200	4,000	160,200	1,484,400
Marquette	247,000	912,500	0	1,159,500
Menominee	0	0	0	0

APPENDIX IV (continued)

**Land Acquisition and Local Assistance Grant Programs Activity Under Stewardship
by County as of June 30, 2018**

County	Grants to Local Units of Government	Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations	County Forest Grants	Total Encumbrances/ Expenditures*
Milwaukee	\$4,831,000	\$4,068,800	\$0	\$8,899,800
Monroe	819,100	10,000	0	829,100
Oconto	736,800	151,400	56,500	944,700
Oneida	842,300	166,200	0	1,008,500
Outagamie	2,534,100	289,200	0	2,823,300
Ozaukee	4,310,000	9,679,800	0	13,989,800
Pepin	30,000	469,400	0	499,400
Pierce	590,400	2,271,400	0	2,861,800
Polk	1,402,900	3,147,100	0	4,550,000
Portage	2,168,000	521,900	0	2,689,900
Price	629,100	0	0	629,100
Racine	7,832,900	306,200	0	8,139,100
Richland	194,600	0	0	194,600
Rock	2,840,300	2,081,800	0	4,922,100
Rusk	605,800	0	436,300	1,042,100
Sauk	3,476,500	11,539,700	0	15,016,200
Sawyer	594,400	42,600	0	637,000
Shawano	1,519,500	130,400	0	1,649,900
Sheboygan	1,910,600	2,934,600	0	4,845,200
St. Croix	2,646,300	2,527,000	0	5,173,300
Taylor	188,700	308,400	138,600	635,700
Trempealeau	123,700	462,100	0	585,800
Vernon	1,413,800	254,400	0	1,668,200
Vilas	1,558,600	4,897,300	48,900	6,504,800
Walworth	3,174,900	2,625,600	0	5,800,500
Washburn	666,000	842,300	935,500	2,443,800
Washington	4,601,800	10,378,700	0	14,980,500
Waukesha	17,161,500	5,535,400	0	22,696,900
Waupaca	2,425,300	312,200	0	2,737,500
Waushara	430,400	951,500	0	1,381,900
Winnebago	9,146,600	1,083,700	0	10,230,300
Wood	<u>3,542,400</u>	<u>97,600</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,640,000</u>
Total	\$172,393,400	\$158,729,500	\$15,984,900	\$347,107,800

*Data includes encumbrances for grants approved under Grants to Local Governments and Grants to NCOs and expenditures for County Forest Grants.

APPENDIX V

Stewardship Major Development Projects Active as of June 30, 2018

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Amnicon Falls State Park Entrance Drive	\$183,100.00	\$122,403.58	-	\$60,696.42
Amnicon Falls State Park Visitor Contact Station	643,600.00	542,211.27	\$34,086.74	67,301.99
Badger State Trail Resurface and Construct Drain	497,000.00	383,117.66	-	113,882.34
Big Foot Beach State Park South Bathhouse Building Upgrade	127,000.00	114,172.79	9,214.46	3,612.75
Big Foot Beach State Park Construct 2 New Vault Toilet Buildings	185,000.00	146,020.51	989.75	37,989.74
Big Foot Beach State Park Construct New Toilet/Shower Building	625,300.00	590,661.40	-	34,638.60
Black River State Forest Castle Mound Toilet Shower Building	540,160.00	496,213.52	1,973.91	41,972.57
Blue Mounds State Park Entrance and Visitor Station	907,150.00	863,361.58	-	43,788.42
Brule River State Forest Replace Vault Toilets-Winneboujou Canoe Landing	185,000.00	162,236.88	1,532.50	21,230.62
Council Grounds State Park Boat Launch Repair	185,000.00	147,034.31	-	37,965.69
Crex Meadows Mess Hall Addition	284,000.00	-	-	284,000.00
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area Construct Consolidated Large Equipment Storage Facility	599,400.00	419,860.02	-	179,539.98
Devil's Lake State Park Chateau Siding and Window Trim	168,400.00	157,318.52	10,087.09	994.39
Devil's Lake State Park New Sewage Pump Stations	1,014,000.00	934,945.96	550.00	78,504.04
Devil's Lake State Park Quartzite Shower Building Replacement	1,689,200.00	1,352,397.45	-	336,802.55
Fish Lake Wildlife Area Dueholm Water Control Structure Replacement	298,500.00	268,296.15	-	30,203.85
Flambeau River State Forest Replace Old Vault Toilets-Lake Of The Pines Campground	111,000.00	105,575.41	-	5,424.59
Glacial Drumlin State Trail Lake Mills Office Remodel	185,000.00	182,188.01	-	2,811.99
Governor Dodge State Park Replace Unit Vault Privies For Group Campsites	185,000.00	159,694.96	-	25,305.04
Governor Dodge State Park Cox Hollow Dam Repair	980,700.00	72,751.37	18,167.13	889,781.50
Governor Thompson State Park Caldron Falls Beach Area Improvements	661,000.00	9,464.02	-	651,535.98
Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area Community Hiking Trail	162,200.00	2,780.60	15,756.70	143,662.70
Harrington Beach State Park Law Enforcement Storage Building	144,243.15	134,310.02	-	9,933.13
High Cliff State Park Infrastructure Upgrades	526,200.00	92,520.66	332,050.60	101,628.74
Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area Palmatory Picnic Shelter	501,600.00	-	-	501,600.00

APPENDIX V (continued)

**Stewardship Major Development Projects
Active as of June 30, 2018**

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Interstate State Park Replace Windows and Doors at Ice Age Center Building	\$101,800.00	\$81,774.56	\$19,385.44	\$640.00
Interstate State Park Beach Renovation	156,500.00	94.76	-	156,405.24
Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery Renovation	26,600,000.00	1,201,197.36	39,712.15	25,359,090.49
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit Exterior Headquarters Renovation	124,880.00	122,326.77	-	2,553.23
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit Replace Eagle Shop Furnace	183,700.00	161,496.25	9,633.99	12,569.76
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit Improvements at Ottawa Dog Trail Grounds	240,000.00	-	-	240,000.00
Lake Noquebay Fishing Pier Replacement	155,000.00	6,023.75	135,320.00	13,656.25
Lake Wissota State Park Construct New Park Entrance and Visitor Station	1,565,400.00	1,496,513.82	10,941.84	57,944.34
Lost Land Lake Public Access Teal Lake Boat Launch Repair	154,800.00	6,032.78	131,500.00	17,267.22
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Develop Mazomanie Day-Use Area	506,600.00	48,300.00	9,684.00	448,616.00
Military Ridge State Trail Paint Mt. Horeb Bridge	172,100.00	15,279.65	140,832.01	15,988.34
Mirror Lake State Park Replace Septic System For Dump Station and Shop	377,100.00	318,731.25	-	58,368.75
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Replace Old Vault Toilets	344,300.00	-	-	344,300.00
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Vault Toilet Replacement	1,205,700.00	985,303.54	11,600.81	208,795.65
Pattison State Park Reroof Shelter and Shop Building	210,000.00	177,545.50	11,800.03	20,654.47
Peninsula State Park Roof Replacement - Various Campground Toilets/Shower Buildings	100,600.00	82,721.32	8,797.52	9,081.16
Peninsula State Park Welkers & Tenneson Bay Shower Building Upgrades	125,800.00	124,615.70	-	1,184.30
Peninsula State Park Waste Water Treatment System Repairs	1,152,100.00	52,771.75	30,058.25	1,069,270.00
Pine/Popple Wildlife Areas Repair Access Roads	131,750.00	118,236.00	-	13,514.00
Point Beach State Forest Drill New Campground Well	129,000.00	86,996.59	12,599.21	29,404.20
Point Beach State Forest Replace Old Shower Septic Tanks	144,000.00	131,470.97	2,954.93	9,574.10
Point Beach State Forest Historic Lodge Shelter Remodel	183,700.00	171,633.77	4,044.08	8,022.15
Point Beach State Forest Replace Water Lines in the Campground	399,300.00	525.69	14,530.82	384,243.49
Rib Mountain State Park Convert Campsites To Day Use - Phase II	814,700.00	787,389.97	-	27,310.03
Richard Bong State Recreation Area Replace Roofs on Shelter Buildings	110,900.00	85,794.27	-	25,105.73

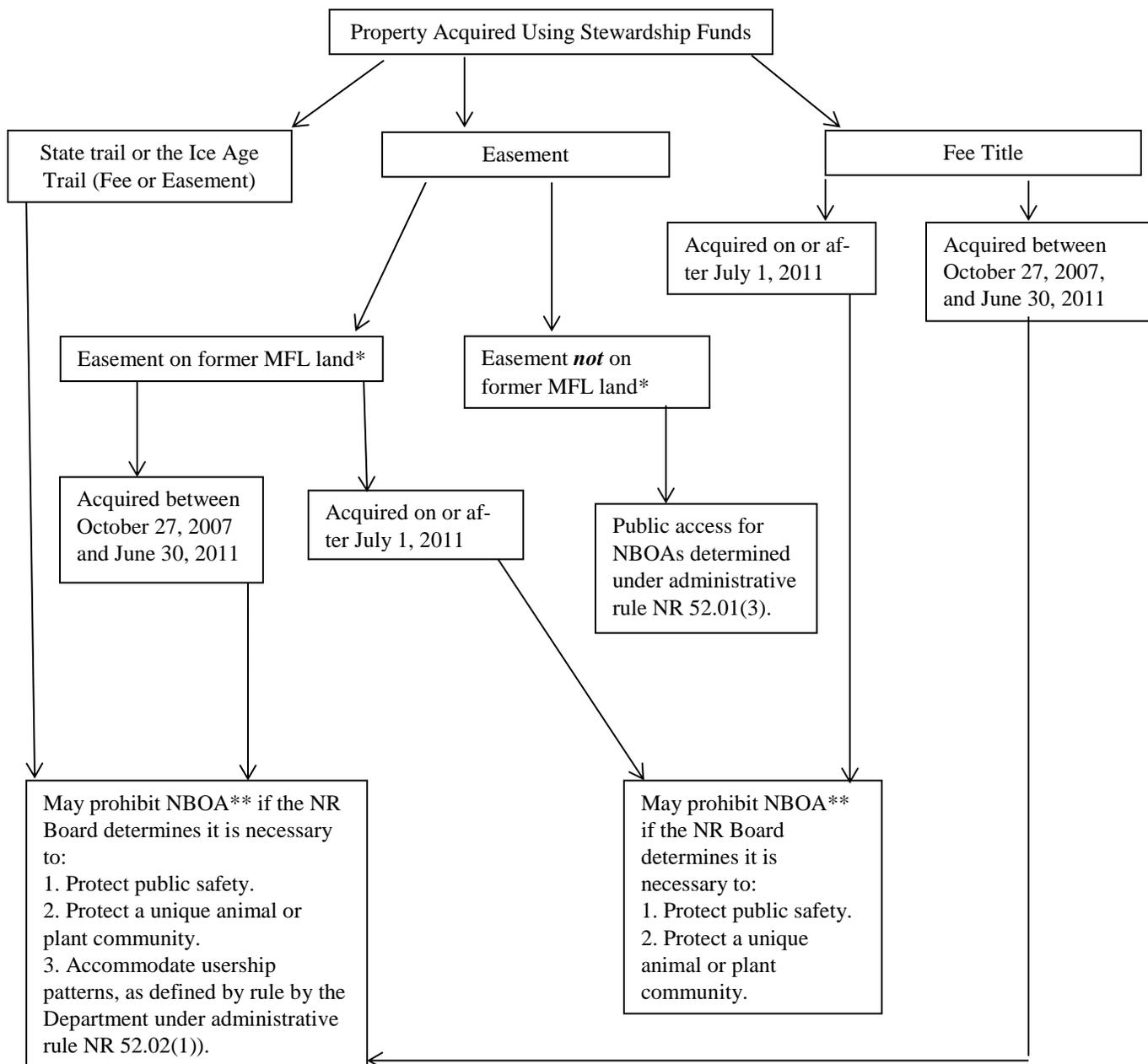
APPENDIX V (continued)

**Stewardship Major Development Projects
Active as of June 30, 2018**

Project Name	Budgeted	Expended	Encumbered	Balance
Richard Bong State Recreation Area Siding Replacement on Four Buildings	\$168,700.00	\$81,145.05	\$5,176.15	\$82,378.80
Rowley's Bay Public Access Construct Boat Access Parking	175,400.00	-	-	175,400.00
Rush Lake Renovate North Boat Landing	97,500.00	83,627.85	-	13,872.15
Sandhill Wildlife Area Replace West Pole Shed	238,300.00	173,381.36	-	64,918.64
Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area Machinery Storage Pole-Building	516,900.00	436,432.22	6,614.14	73,853.64
Straight Lake State Park Repair/Reconstruct Dam	379,500.00	361,696.74	-	17,803.26
Straight Lake State Park Development Phase I	1,258,100.00	1,090,460.78	-	167,639.22
Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Sportsmans Landing Boat Launch Renovation	115,000.00	85,950.06	-	29,049.94
Willow River State Park Little Falls Dam Repair	185,000.00	184,215.78	784.22	-
Willow River State Park Pedestrian Bridge	368,700.00	356,008.56	-	12,691.44
Willow River State Park Little Falls Dam Replacement	12,500,000.00	468,861.60	8,191,770.12	3,839,368.28
Wyalusing State Park Replace Septic Field for Flush Building	135,689.50	5,300.00	118,643.00	11,746.50
Wyalusing State Park Homestead Toilet Shower Building	494,963.00	429,188.65	53,053.90	12,720.45
Yellowstone Lake State Park Dam Repair	<u>487,300.00</u>	<u>252,890.94</u>	<u>206,023.24</u>	<u>28,385.82</u>
Major Projects Subtotal	\$64,099,535.65	\$17,731,472.26	\$9,599,868.73	\$36,768,194.66
Various Small Projects	<u>2,722,249.00</u>	<u>1,522,120.02</u>	<u>49,532.88</u>	<u>1,150,596.10</u>
Total	\$66,821,784.65	\$19,253,592.28	\$9,649,401.61	\$37,918,790.76

APPENDIX VI

Stewardship Public Access Requirements (SS. 23.0916(2) and 23.0916(3) of the Statutes and Administrative Rule NR 52)



***Former MFL land.** Section 23.0916(1) of the statutes defines former MFL land as "land that was withdrawn from the managed forest land program under subch. VI of ch. 77 on or after October 27, 2007".

****NBOA** = Nature-Based Outdoor Activity. Section 23.0916(1)(b) of the statutes defines nature-based outdoor activity as "hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and any other nature-based outdoor activity designated by rule by the Department for the purposes of this section."

APPENDIX VII

Statutory Stewardship Program Earmarks by Biennium

Biennium	Project	Location (County)	Bonding Authority	Local Match*
1991-93	Monona Terrace Convention Center	Dane	\$3,000,000	50%
	Hank Aaron State Trail	Milwaukee	400,000	
	Horicon Marsh Interpretive Center	Dodge	250,000	75
1997-99	Grandfather Falls Recreation Area	Lincoln	2,138,000	
	Hank Aaron State Trail	Milwaukee	290,000	
	Crex Meadows Wildlife Center	Burnett	250,000	75
	Flambeau Mine Trail	Rusk	100,000	
1999-01	Milwaukee Lakeshore State Park	Milwaukee	2,000,000	
	Root River Multi-Purpose Pathway	Racine	750,000	50
	Hank Aaron State Trail	Milwaukee	670,000	
	Sheboygan Riverfront Park	Sheboygan	173,800	
	Keyes Lake Recreational Area	Florence	125,000	
	Rock River Riverwall	Jefferson	96,500	50
	Rib Mountain State Park Ski Chalet	Marathon	50,000	
	Upper Whiting Park	Portage	38,000	
	Nonprofit Habitat Restoration and Land Acquisition	Not Specified	20,000	
2001-03	Milwaukee Lakeshore State Park	Milwaukee	3,000,000	
	Kickapoo Valley Visitor Center	Vernon	2,370,000	
	State Fair Park	Milwaukee	2,000,000	
	Rib Mountain State Park Ski Chalet	Marathon	1,000,000	
	Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative	Grant	1,000,000	
	Prairie River Restoration	Lincoln	450,000	
	Root River Parkway	Racine	375,000	50
2007-09	Mirror Lake Boat Access	Sauk	1,000,000	
	The Conservation Fund - Greenseams Flood Management	Milwaukee	1,000,000	25
	Green Bay Recreational Trail	Brown	875,800	25
	Ice Age and Springbrook Trails	Langlade	600,000	50
	Jersey Valley Lake	Vernon	500,000	25
2011-13	Dam Safety Grants**	Milwaukee, Racine, Vernon	6,000,000	75
	DATCP Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE)	Several	5,200,000	50
2013-15	Bearskin State Trail	Lincoln, Oneida	130,000	

APPENDIX VII (continued)

Statutory Stewardship Program Earmarks by Biennium

Biennium	Project	Location (County)	Bonding Authority	Local Match*
2015-17	Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery	Sheboygan	\$19,600,000	
	Little Falls Dam (Willow River State Park)	St. Croix	5,000,000	
	Dam Safety Grants**	Milwaukee, Racine, Vernon	3,255,000	75
	Neenah-Menasha Twin Trestles Bridges	Calumet, Winnebago	1,600,000	50
2017-2019	Saxon Harbor Campground and Marina	Iron	1,000,000	
	Canadian Pacific Railway Corridor Trail	Racine	1,000,000	
	Peninsula State Park Eagle Tower Reconstruction	Door	750,000	50
	Horicon Marsh Overlook Shelter Enhancement	Dodge	500,000	
	Neenah-Menasha Twin Trestles	Winnebago	415,300	50
	Municipal Flood Control Grant (Arcadia)	Trempealeau	14,600,000	
	Little Falls Dam	St. Croix	12,500,000***	

*Percent of eligible project costs funded by grant recipient.

**Originally \$6 million set-aside under 2011 Act 32. 2015 Act 55 allowed remaining unobligated funds from fiscal years 2011-12 through 2013-14, after using up to \$19.6 million for the Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery and up to \$5 million for the Little Falls Dam, to be utilized for any remaining county dam grants meeting the 2011 Act 32 requirements, until the unobligated funds are fully utilized or the county dam grants awarded total \$6 million.

***Total stewardship funding includes \$5 million authorized in the 2015-17 budget and \$7.5 million authorized in the 2017-19 budget.